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New York

President:	Mr. Masood Khan	(Pakistan)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Estreme
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Shearman
	United States of America	Ms. Finerty

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2012/956)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of welcome to new members and of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President: As this is the first formal meeting of the Security Council this year, I would like to extend my warm wishes for a very fruitful new year to all members of the Security Council, the Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to the new members Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and Rwanda. We look forward to their participation in the work of the Council. Their experience and wisdom will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's responsibilities.

I take this opportunity to express the Council's gratitude to the outgoing members — Columbia, Germany, India, Portugal and South Africa — for their important contributions to the work of the Council during their terms in 2011 and 2012.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: I take this opportunity to pay tribute on behalf of the Council to His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Loulichki, Permanent Representative of Morocco, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2012. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council when I express my deep appreciation to Ambassador Loulichki and his team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2012/956)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Margaret Vogt, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, and Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome Ms. Vogt, who is participating in today's meeting via video teleconference from Libreville.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/956, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country.

I now give the floor to Ms. Vogt.

Ms. Vogt: Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, as well as for following up with us and for the many phone calls you have made to us to find out how we are doing and how the mission is handling the crisis that we have been experiencing. I would also like to thank the Council for its attention to the situaiton in the Central African Republic, especially since the eruption of conflict at the beginning of December 2012.

The report before the Security Council (S/2012/956) builds on the previous report (S/2012/374) of 29 May 2012, and provides an update on political, security, socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights developments in the Central African Republic. It also details the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) in support of the Government's peace-consolidation efforts, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

Since the report was issued, on 21 December 2012, events have unfolded in the Central African Republic that have had a great impact on the social, political and security situation in the country and have significantly constrained the ability of United Nations agencies and programmes to do their work. A coalition made up of elements of four rebel groups launched an offensive against the Government on 10 December, occupying

a number of towns in the north, north-east and north-central parts of the Central African Republic.

The reporting period witnessed some significant and positive developments, including the following: the electoral code was revised and a permanent elections-management body was approved by consensus, which is a task that we struggled to achieve for a long time; the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (CPJP) acceded to the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement, paving the way for the conduct of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in the north-east, funding for which was made available by the European Union in July 2012; and the Government concluded an agreement with the International Monetary Fund that lifted the restriction on external funding and enabled the flow of donor support, which had been blocked for about three years. Unfortunately, those positive achievements were undermined by the resumption of conflict, wish some rebel groups launching a series of attacks against a number of towns in the north-east.

On 12 December, the Convention patriotique pour le salut du Kodro, the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, a faction of the CPJP that calls itself Fundamental CPJP and a faction of the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement established the "Séléka" coalition, which was later joined later by the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain of Abdoulaye Miskine. The Séléka coalition took control of a number of towns, without much resistance from the national army. The failure of the army to repel that aggression is indicative of the depth of decay within the armed forces. The army had lost cohesion and the will to fight; many of the soldiers simply dropped their weapons and melted into the bush. Within a few weeks almost half of the prefectures in the territory had come under rebel control.

The leaders of the subregion responded very quickly to the series of crises confronting the Central African Republic. On 17 December, President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad deployed troops to the Central African Republic as an interposition force, supposedly to prevent the rebels from expanding beyond Sibut, which is located at a strategic juncture to Bangui and is a crossroads to many other parts of the country. The new Chadian contingent, which was supposed to have been brought under the control of the Mission de Consolidation de la Paix of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (MICOPAX), was unable to prevent the rebels from taking Sibut. Heads of State of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (ECCAS) met in N'Djamena on 21 December in an extraordinary session at which they decided to reactivate the follow-up committee for the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to facilitate peace talks in Libreville among the Government, rebel leaders and the political opposition — talks that were supposed to be moderated by President Denis Soussou N'Guesso of the Republic of Congo.

Unfortunately, the N'Djamena summit was followed by another rebel overrun of the town of Damara, which is only 75 kilometres from Bangui. For the United Nations Sibut was the red line for our security guarantee. The security management team had designed a contingency plan that would enable the United Nations to evacuate families from the Central African Republic in a reasonable time. The Council will recall that Bangui is a family duty station, so there are many children and families in Bangui. The calculation of the team was that it would take an attacking force about five to six hours to get to Bangui from Sibut, leaving us with enough time to mobilize prepositioned air assets and to assemble families. However, when the rebels decided to overrun Damara, on 29 December, and following indications from the national security forces that they would not be in a position to guarantee our security, the entire United Nations system, the African Union (AU) and international non-governmental organizations had no choice but to evacuate their staff from the Central African Republic. We evacuated members of staff and families upon the attack on Sibut, with the remaining staff members being evacuated on 29 December following the overrun of Damara.

ECCAS heads of State then decided to deploy forces to Bangui to reinforce MICOPAX and help defend the city. Troops from Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon and a new Chadian contingent were deployed within two days over the New Year holidays. We consider that to be a real record. The Government also requested the support of troops from South Africa, about 400 of whom were deployed, while the French deployed extra forces, increasing their presence in Bangui to 600 troops.

We believe that the decision of the international community to pull out its personnel drove home to the regional leaders the critical security challenges in the Central African Republic and the need to take concrete steps to secure Bangui. It should be recalled that MICOPAX had drawn down its forces to training and

police contingents in anticipation of a final pull-out that was envisaged for 2013. MICOPAX has since changed its mandate, providing its newly deployed troops with a mandate to aggressively defend their positions, and Bangui in particular, and has halted plans to pull out of the Central African Republic.

Following the N'Djamena decision and the decision to launch peace talks in Libreville, I embarked on an intensive diplomatic effort, together with my African Union colleague, to engage with the parties, the Government, the rebel groups, the political parties and civil society members. I travelled to Brazzaville on two occasions to consult with President Sassou Nguesso on how he wanted to structure the peace talks in Libreville. I offered the President the full technical support of the United Nations, as well as our political advice. I also briefed and consulted with the Cameroonian authorities on options for resolving the conflict in the Central African Republic.

These efforts were warmly welcomed, and a coordination team was created in the Congolese Foreign Ministry to manage the mediation efforts of the Presidents. On my second trip to Libreville, I was accompanied by mediation experts from the United Nations standby mediation team — who have remained with us — and by staff officers, as well as the representative of the AU Commission. The United Nations team helped to structure the mediation, advised on the process, helped to draft a declaration of principles and a draft ceasefire agreement, and helped to prepare other analytical documents.

BINUCA worked closely with the ECCAS team that was deployed to Bangui from 27 December to 7 January to prepare for the talks and to manage the deployment of the ECCAS forces. We facilitated their contacts with the rebels in the region, with the Government, the opposition, political parties and civil society. BINUCA was also requested to airlift rebel groups from the Central African Republic province of Bria, N'Djamena and Yaoundé to Libreville. United Nations staff officers were also requested to support the ECCAS secretariat during the talks.

In doing all of this, I made it clear that ECCAS was in the lead and that our role was to support and to facilitate. The role played by the United Nations was greatly appreciated. We are also expected to actively participate in the follow-up mechanism that would be established to implement any agreement that would emanate from the Libreville talks. I will be happy to announce later that some important agreements have emanated from the talks. I understand that the moderator intends to nominate a personal representative to the Central African Republic, who would be based in Bangui, to work with us and other partners in the follow-up mechanism that would be established.

Contrary to the skepticism expressed and the insistence of the rebel groups and the political opposition that President Bozizé had lost all legitimacy to remain in office and must be removed, the peace talks commenced with all the parties at the table. The regional leaders appeared determined not to allow a rebel overrun of the Central African Republic — they made that very clear in all their interventions — and to prevent a forceful removal of a democratically elected Government, but were equally hard on President Bozizé for what they described as his lack of openness. Still, the President, backed into a corner, was forced to make a number of concessions and to make good on his promise to establish a Government of national unity.

About an hour or so ago, the summit of ECCAS Heads of State came to a close. In fact, we have just now returned from the closing ceremony. After intense negotiations, in which we were actively involved, and a number of concessions made by various parties, three agreements were signed.

The first is the declaration of principles to resolve the political and security crisis in the Central African Republic, which was signed by the Government, the politico-military movements that have adhered to the Libreville Peace Agreement, the Séléka coalition and the democratic opposition, as well as ECCAS and the follow-up committee of the Libreville Peace Agreement.

The second is the ceasefire agreement, signed by the Government and Séléka, and witnessed by ECCAS and the follow-up committee. That agreement is to come into force within 72 hours of signature.

The third is the political agreement on the politico-security situation in the Central African Republic, signed by representatives of the presidential majority, the politico-military groups parties to the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the democratic opposition and Séléka. This agreement defines the modalities of a power -sharing and the political arrangements.

In summary, the political agreement establishes that President Bozizé shall remain in power until the end of his mandate in 2016. A Prime Minister will be appointed from the opposition, with full powers to run the Government for 12 months, renewable. An inclusive Government of national unity will be established and function for a period of 12 months, renewable, and be tasked with specific responsibilities. The Government of national unity will consist of the presidential majority, the democratic opposition, the politico-military groups that have signed the Libreville Peace Agrement, the Séléka coalition and civil society. The Government shall not be removed by the President during the transitional period. The Government of national unity will be headed by a Prime Minister who will be the Head of Government and chosen from the opposition.

The tasks that this Government will be expected to carry out during the year-long period would be to restore peace and security and to organize legislative elections after an anticipated dissolution of the National Assembly. It is expected that the National Assembly will be dissolved one year into the game and that new elections will be held.

The Government will also reorganize the security forces and the territorial administration and presumably also help expand Government authority to a greater part of the country, reform the judicial system, actively implement DDR and security sector reform with the assistance of the international community and undertake the reform of the economic and social sectors. It is also envisaged, in this arrangement, that neither the Prime Minister, the President nor members of his Cabinet will be able to run in the next election. Later, the Prime Minister, not the President, would be eligible to take part in the next presidential election.

This agreement has just be concluded. President Bozizé, in his closing remarks, invited the opposition and all the parties to return with him immediately to Bangui so that this new Government can be put in place tomorrow.

In my most recent briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6687) and in the report under consideration I signalled a marked improvement in the security situation in a large part of the Central African Republic, following the successful conduct of disarmament in the north-east and north-central regions, the beginning of the reinsertion programme in those regions and the repatriation of the Chadian rebel leader, Baba Laddé and his men. It is instructive that the north-west, even in all of this, has not been impacted by the rebel overrun. The accession of the CPJP to the Libreville Peace Agreement, on 25 August 2012, cleared the final political hurdle to the successful launch of the DDR process in the north-east. Tha was to have take place in January 2013, and was to be facilitated, and will still be facilitated, by funding for the reintegration programme provided by the European Union and the World Bank. We chose January because we needed to wait until the end of the rainy season, as that part of the country is not accessible from June to November or December because of road conditions.

Why was this new wave of rebellion launched precisely at the time that the DDR process was to restart? It will be recalled that we have been reporting on the dissent within the armed forces and deep divisions among the political leadership, which were partly engendered by rumours that the President planned to change the Constitution to remain in power beyond the end of his constitutional mandate in 2016. The rise of active rebellion may not be unconnected to the frustration of some who had nursed succession ambitions. Besides, it is clear that the DDR process in the north-east is unlikely to benefit all the fighting forces. The region is vast and sparsely populated and most of the rebel movements have within their ranks militia groups from Chad and the Sudan. Any disarmament effort in that region would require the cantonment of those forces, in a region where there is practically no Government presence, and the identification of who is Central African or foreign would be difficult. Such an exercise would only be successful through a regional approach — and we were aware of that — that involves the neighbours of the Central African Republic.

While we have been monitoring and reporting on the increasing incidence of military activities by different armed groups, including dissident groups of the CPJP and deserters of the presidential guard, we did not anticipate that an organized rebel assault on some key locations would lead to such a quick overrun of half of the country. The rebel success was more a factor, in our view, of the failure of the national security forces than of the capacity of the rebels. We are hopeful that the agreements that were signed today in Libreville will contain the immediate flair-up, calm the situation in the Central African Republic and enable us to recalibrate the disarmament process. However, we believe that a

failure to go further to discuss the reasons for the lack of implementation of previous agreements and to correct those factors may lead to another meltdown a few years down the line as a result of expectations frustrated and not met. We were comforted by the statement by the mediator to the effect that he remains engaged and that the discussions would continue to look at those fundamental issues.

Allow me to now turn to the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). During the period under review, there were consistent reports of an increase in LRA activity in the south-east region of the Central African Republic. Up to the moment the report was issued, 48 presumed LRA attacks had been carried out, leading to 24 deaths and 85 abductions. There are 21,000 internally displaced persons and 2,400 refugees. In its efforts to counter the LRA threat, the Government has committed to deploy a battalion to fight the LRA, with about 350 troops actually deployed at any given time — the others will be rotated in and out — before the upsurge in conflict in the north-east. Of course, the upsurge there has completely detracted from that plan.

The coordination of monitoring activities has been enhanced with BINUCA, the Government, the African Union, the World Bank and the international LRA working group, which we established here in Bangui. The deployment of two consultants by BINUCA to the LRA-affected area, funded by the World Bank, has also greatly helped.

I would like to briefly say something about the humanitarian conditions, because I had asked our colleagues to send me the latest input on the humanitarian situation. As of today, the humanitarian conditions remain dire, as the displacement of the population fleeing their homes into the bush continues. That is why one of the provisions in the ceasefire agreements, which calls for an immediate withdrawal of the rebels from the cities, is particularly important, as that will hopefully allow people to go back home. We have registered incessant looting of the offices of humanitarian organizations and stores. The World Food Programme warehouse in Bria has been practically emptied out, the United Nations offices, including BINUCA offices in Bambari and Kaga-Bandoro have also been affected, and the UNICEF office in Kaga-Bandoro has also been looted by the rebels.

Humanitarian access has been constrained, and we estimate that 800,000 people are living in the affected areas and need emergency assistance as soon as we are able to get it to them. The difficulty now is to help create that space for us to get to them. Constrained humanitarian access due to insecurity continues to be a major challenge, and I was told that humanitarian partners want us to underline to the parties — and I have done so with my own engagement with them — the importance of respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law, including as regards immediate humanitarian access, the protection of children against recruitment into the armed forces and protection against sexual and gender-based violence. We made sure that those provisions are very clearly underlined in the ceasefire agreement.

I am pleased to note that Ms. Zainab Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, will brief the Security Council today. We were very happy to host her during the fact-finding mission that she undertook to the Central African Republic, and we have provided details of her visit. BINUCA looks forward and stands ready to work closely with her office and, of course, the entire United Nations system in the Central African Republic to implement the undertakings contained in the two memorandums she signed during her trip to the country.

In conclusion, as dramatic as the events of the past few weeks may have been, they have presented emerging opportunities to get the partners to undertake dialogue and to consult on how to pull the country back from the brink. The Council may recall that many of our reports have been replete with calls for dialogue. However, those opportunities will be lost if advantage is not taken of the opportunity to put in place an efficient an efficient and effective Government that is capable of addressing the many challenges that the country faces. I have made that very clear in our consultations with all the parties. It is not just about giving people posts, but about ensuring that we have a Government that really works. The follow up to the first Libreville Agreement, as well as the inclusive political dialogue, stalled only partly due to the lack of political will. While that is indeed true, it is also true that the Central African Republic has been an aid orphan. Many of our core activities have remained underfunded. I have in the past called for a clear investment in peace and development to prevent the Central African Republic from falling down a slippery slope. We may be on that slippery slope now.

It is also clear that BINUCA and the United Nations presences in the Central African Republic will have to re-evaluate our priorities and capacities to enable us to be more effective partners in the implementation of the agreements that have been signed and as development partners of the country. Plans for the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration must be accompanied by robust political engagement on the ground and within the region to help enhance State authority and capacity. We need to engage more in social cohesion and local mediation. We need to more assertively push for the reform of the security sector and to work with the Bretton Woods institutions to cover post-conflict reconstruction and recovery efforts.

We intend to recommend that BINUCA lead a strategic assessment to review our priorities and to redefine our needs. The international community now needs to engage more forcefully, both diplomatically and financially, to pull the Central African Republic back from the brink. Security is fundamental to peace and development. The Central African Republic requires a functional and effective army and security forces. There is a need for a Government that can be present in all parts of the country, with appropirate capacities. BINUCA should be able to support those efforts, and civilian capacities should be built. All that will require international accompaniment and generous funding. I am happy to report that we work very closely on the ground with our partners, the United States representative, the African Union, the European Union, France and the African group of ambassadors.

The Secretary-General is paying close attention to the situation in the Central African Republic and has accorded us the same level of priority that he has accorded to Syria, Somalia and others conflicts. I count on the Council to continue to support these efforts, and thank the members of the Council for the solidarity they have shown, especially in the past few weeks, as we have tried in grapple with the current crisis.

The President: I thank Ms. Vogt for her briefing, and commend her for the decisions she has taken and the efforts she has made for dialogue and engagement in very difficult circumstances.

I now give the floor to Ms. Bangura.

Ms. Bangura: I wish to join my colleague, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Vogt, in congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. I am grateful for this opportunity to deliver my first briefing to the Security Council, and wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the Council, for inviting me to participate in this meeting. In the interests of time, I will summarize my statement, which has been circulated in writing.

From 5 to 13 December 2012, as Ms. Vogt noted, I visited the Central African Republic, which is the site of a long-forgotten conflict. This is one of the main reasons that I chose the Central African Republic to be the destination of my first country visit since taking office.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Government for welcoming me and for the frank and constructive discussions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, Special Representative Margaret Vogt, and her small but dedicated team for facilitating the visit, and indeed laying the ground for the two communiqués that were its formal outcome.

The regrettable outbreak of conflict since my visit only serves to accentuate the necessity to implement some of the immediate protection commitments that are expressed in the communiqués. At this critical moment, the international community must send a strong and clear message that sexual violence is unacceptable and that those who commit, command or condone such crimes will be held to account.

Conflict-related sexual violence in the Central African Republic is a fundamental security issue that requires an operational security response. Widespread sexual violence against women is being committed by State and non-State actors alike. Such violence includes rape by armed groups in areas under their control; forced abductions of women, girls and boys into armed groups; forced marriage; and some incidents of sexual violence committed by elements of the national security forces. Widespread violations also continue to be committed by the Lord's Resistance Army.

The women I met in Bangui, Bria and Paoua told me that their paramount desire was for security, the release of women and children from armed groups, and the disarmament of combatants so that they could pick up the pieces of their lives. Our general lack of information on sexual violence paralyses action — whether it is action against the perpetrators or programmatic response for survivors. Therefore, ensuring better monitoring, analysis and information as a basis for evidence-based action is a critical priority.

In the areas under the control of armed forces and groups, the civilian population is extremely vulnerable. It is the moral and legal responsibility of all armed actors to prevent such violations. Therefore, all armed forces and groups in the Central African Republic must immediately issue clear orders prohibiting sexual violence through their respective chains of command, and undertake investigations to hold perpetrators to account.

We also know that many women and children are forcibly recruited by and directly associated with armed groups, and that they continue to suffer sexual violence in this context. Therefore, all armed groups must identify and release these women and children without further delay.

These are among the immediate protection measures that must be taken, particularly in the context of ongoing hostilities. These measures should not wait for a ceasefire or peace agreement to be concluded, because the women and children of the Central African Republic have waited for over 20 years and cannot afford to wait any longer. These protection measures must be prerequisite elements of any ceasefire agreement, and I am delighted that Special Representative of the Secretary-General Vogt has ensured this.

In my meetings with representatives of the politico-military groups, they acknowledged that there were problems. They all expressed a willingness to work with the United Nations to address sexual violence. Even at this moment of renewed conflict and a shifting political landscape, it is crucial that we hold all politico-military groups, their leaders and would-be leaders to such commitments.

I would like to recount to the Council one serious and indicative incident that occurred during my visit. In Bria, the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (CPJP) had agreed to release to UNICEF custody of a number of children associated with their group. The day before the handover, most of the children who had been identified were moved some 30 kilometres from the designated handover location. In the end, the child protection team was able to access only three children — one boy and two girls. In spite of having signed release documents for these three children, the CPJP cadres on the ground refused to let the two girls go. They insisted that the girls were the wives of combatants. They also assaulted a member of the child protection team. This incident goes to show that there are special challenges to secure the release of women and girls from armed groups.

Although the Government has taken a number of measures, including important legislative reforms, to address sexual violence, the capacity of national institutions to implement them is extremely limited and State authority and structures are absent in most areas outside Bangui. Where a measure of political will may exist, addressing sexual violence crimes is most often overridden by other perceived priorities and resource and structural constraints.

In carrying this mandate forward, I am placing particular emphasis on fostering national ownership, leadership and responsibility. Therefore, a primary objective of my visit was to deepen dialogue and cooperation with the Government. In addition and in accordance with the will of this Council as expressed in resolution 1960 (2010), it was essential that I engage with the leadership of the main politico-military groups in order to gain concrete protection commitments from them. Such engagement with all relevant parties to the conflict will continue to define the mode of work of my Office.

In follow-up to my visit, it is intended that the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict will deploy to the Central African Republic. We would like this technical follow-up mission to take place by February or March of this year, but the timing will of course be contingent upon the political and security situation. The Team of Experts will re-engage the key stakeholders and support the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and the United Nations country team in preparing an implementation strategy and plan for the commitments under the joint communiqués.

The deployment of a women's protection adviser to BINUCA to support Special Representative of the Secretary-General Vogt in the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and the joint communiqués is critical. I urge the Security Council and Member States to support the deployment of women's protection advisers.

I will encourage the United Nations system, particularly through the United Nations Action network, to refocus on the Central African Republic in terms of advocacy, monitoring and reporting and services for survivors. There is an urgent need for greater

international focus and attention on the Central African Republic, including more sustained donor commitment for a comprehensive and integrated response to sexual and gender-based violence across the country.

As the briefing of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Vogt underscored, addressing security issues, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants and reform of the security sector, is the prerequisite for sustainable prevention and response to sexual violence. The state of chronic emergency impedes all aspects of humanitarian and development work in the country. However, it is my belief that, with greater focus at the highest political level and the strategic and sustained dedication of resources, it is possible to make progress. It will be crucial to ensure that any assistance provided is predicated on the Government taking national ownership and responsibility.

The President: I thank Ms. Bangura for her briefing and for sharing her important perspective and assessment with Council members.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Doubane (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): Like Ms. Bangura, I had prepared a speech, but given the changing situation I will deliver only the last part of what I had prepared.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessor, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco. I thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2012/956) on my country, the Central African Republic, which is the subject of our meeting today. I also take this opportunity to express our thanks and friendship to Ms. Vogt, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic and her team for their tireless work to support peace and development in my country.

Since we are at the dawn of a new year, I would like to offer my best wishes to all representatives and their families.

The Central African Republic takes note of the report that has just been presented, and welcomes the progress noted therein towards bringing peace and development to my country after so many years of suffering due to multiple internal revolts and the presence of foreign insurgencies on our territory. Despite some ongoing difficulties, my country's Government is progressively establishing genuine rule of law and has made further progress since 10 December; indeed, the report of the Secretary-General has been superceded by developments on the ground.

We can say that, as of 10 December, the international community was again showing signs of fatigue. The Special Representative's video teleconference briefing reflected this fact since, for a number of days, she has been managing the situation in the Central African Republic not from Bangui as she did previously, but from Yaoundé, where she is living, since the entire delegation and all agencies have been moved to Cameroon. That is also why she introduced her report from Libreville while the talks are being held. Hence, the report has become completely obsolete since it was published.

As I was saying, the international community and the Central African people themselves are without doubt tired of this ongoing instability and insecurity, which is caused by the ready and abusive use of the gun as a means to settle the disputes and other problems that unfortunately beset my country, the Central African Republic. This is certainly an understandable attitude, but I can assure the Council here and now that the Central African people are well aware of the situation and can together say, "we have understood this and understood it well".

That is why the meeting of Heads of States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) included a discussion on ways to resolve this latest of many crises that have affected the Central African Republic and undermined its national unity and cohesion. Everybody is now convinced that the talks in Libreville are the last lifeline for the Central African Republic because the threat of war is clear in our fragile State and among its people.

In the light of this situation, the Government favours dialogue and, like the people of the Central African Republic and the entire international community represented here, places considerable hope in the implementaiton of fair, balanced, realistic and practical solutions that will lead to lasting, even definitive peace in the Central African Republic. We thank God that the signing of the three agreements has led to some easing

of the tension. The Government is now committed, with the support of the follow-up committee to be established, to implement the recommendations, resolutions and other decisions that have emerged from the talks in the interest of peace and reconciliation between the daughters and sons of the Central African Republic.

In conclusion, my delegation would simply like to thank from the bottom of our heart all those who, despite the various challenges, have continued to support the Central African Republic in its pursuit of peace and stability, in particular States members of ECCAS, friendly countries, the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations, the International Organization of la Francophonie, international financial institutions, multilateral and bilateral partners, without forgetting national and international non-governmental organizations or simply those who, out of goodwill, have worked on the sidelines. In that connection, I would like to say that the Gabonese people, who were critical in providing hospitality to the African delegation, deserve all our thanks.

Finally, in closing, I would like to end by saying that acting to restore peace in the Central African Republic is to act in favour of the stability of the subregion and of Africa as a whole.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6900

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6900th meeting
Tuesday, 15 January 2013, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Khar/Mr. Masood Khan	(Pakistan)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Squeff
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Aliyev
	China	Mr. Cui Tiankai
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	Luxembourg	Mr. Asselborn
	Morocco	Mr. Amrani
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Kim Sook
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zmeevsky
	Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
	Togo	Mr. Esaw
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Baroness Warsi
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism

Letter dated 1 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/3)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

13-20590 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism

Letter dated 1 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/3)

The President: I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General and ministers and other high-level representatives of the Security Council members participating in today's meeting. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed today.

Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/3, which contains the text of a letter dated 1 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I hope that this open debate will serve to promote a holistic view of the continuing threats and challenges posed by international terrorism and of the best ways to address that menace collectively through a coherent and comprehensive approach. It is an issue of common concern to the international community at large. It is through solidarity, understanding, cooperation and collective action that we can respond more effectively to the threat. That objective, I am sure, will be reinforced by our discussion today.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I am pleased to welcome Her Excellency Foreign Minister Khar back to the United Nations. I thank Pakistan for convening this important debate. As this is my first time to address the Council this year, I would like to warmly welcome all the members of the Security Council and to affirm that I count on their leadership. At the same time, I would like to warmly welcome the new members of the Council — the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and Rwanda.

In the light of recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, I want to repeat my heartfelt condolences to the victims and to reiterate the United Nations strong support for, and solidarity with, the Government's efforts to combat terrorism and defend the country's institutions and freedoms.

Meeting as the New Year begins, we are challenged to look back on what we have accomplished in countering terrorism and to look ahead regarding how to overcome this deadly threat.

The past year saw solid progress. In June, the General Assembly recommitted to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Through a consensus resolution (General Assembly resolution 66/282), the Assembly strengthened our resolve to support victims of terrorism everywhere. It reaffirmed our commitment to a comprehensive approach to terrorism, grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law.

No counter-terrorism policy can be effective without addressing conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism. That is the first pillar of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Today, I would like to highlight three aspects of that pillar.

The first aspect is the critical links between development and security. Nothing can ever justify terrorism. No grievance, no goal, no cause can excuse terrorist acts. At the same time, we must remove the conditions that feed the problem. Terrorism festers where conflicts are endemic and where human rights, human dignity and human life are not protected and impunity prevails.

Second is the importance of dialogue and understanding. We have to drown out shrill appeals to intolerance and extremism with sound calls for compassion and moderation.

Third is the increasing use of information technology to spread hatred. Terrorists and extremists are exploiting social media networks to radicalize people. This is yet another arena where we have to replace the terrorist narrative with messages of peace, development and human welfare. Progress in all these areas will demand the steady efforts of States, individually and collectively.

I welcome three upcoming international conferences. In April, a new project on human rights training for counter-terrorism law enforcement officials will hold its first conference in Amman. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) working group on human rights while countering terrorism is organizing that event. In two weeks, Governments will gather in Bogota for the International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the CTITF. This summer, the CTITF and the Government of Switzerland will host a conference of counter-terrorism focal points aimed at addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Attention to the conditions that are conducive to terrorism does not in any way diminish the importance of other counter-terrorism priorities. The financing of terrorism remains a key threat, and States requires capacity-building in response. The Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meeting on the subject in November 2012, chaired by Ambassador Puri of India, was an important step.

In our efforts to eliminate terrorism, I urge humanitarian, security and political actors to engage in an open and sustained policy dialogue to ensure that efforts to prevent acts of terrorism do not ever impede the timely and principled delivery of assistance of a strictly humanitarian nature to civilians. This is all the more important as we cope with increasing humanitarian emergencies around the world. This year, we face challenges in Mali and the broader Sahel region, where terrorism feeds off of extreme destitution and undermines development through violence, intolerance and human rights abuses. I welcome the Security Council's resolve to tackle the challenges in that region head on. I especially appreciate the Council's sensitive approach to underlying factors that have led to this dire security situation.

There were far too many victims of terrorism over the past year, but none was more compelling in her struggle than Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani teen who was shot, along with her schoolmates, by extremists. The Government and people of Pakistan were joined by others around the world in rallying behind Malala and offering their best wishes for her recovery. I was deeply moved by her brave efforts to champion the fundamental right to education — a value enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the teachings of Islam.

I am proud to count myself among her supporters and well-wishers. Malala and her schoolmates have shown tremendous courage. Their grace and integrity challenge the world to respond to the terrorist threat with the comprehensive and broad-based approach that is essential to success.

I count on all members of the Council — and all members of the international community — to unite in advancing this important work.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Let me begin by thanking all Council members for supporting Pakistan in putting the theme of "A comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism" on the Council's agenda for an open debate culminating in the adoption of a presidential statement. In this regard, we are also particularly thankful to the Secretary General for his constant help and guidance.

In choosing the theme for this debate, we knew that it was a difficult subject but certainly one that needed the Council's attention and pronouncement because, as the threat of terrorism continues to evolve, so must our strategies to deal with it. The struggle against this threat is not for today or tomorrow or for the next week or even for a year. It is a long haul. We all have to brace for it. We all have to continue to prepare for it.

Pakistan's initiative for this debate is rooted in our shared objective of attaining global peace, security, stability and development. As a threat to international peace and security, terrorism has a direct bearing on all of our countries and regions, as well as on all

individuals and societies. The past decade has shown that terrorism knows no geographical boundaries.

In the past decade, one lesson we have all learned is that a lopsided or unidimensional approach will not work as we try to defeat the hydra-headed monster of terrorism. This monster has tentacles all around the world. It is truly a global threat. Our strategies and responses must therefore also be global in nature.

The Security Council and the United Nations as a whole have already done an impressive body of work by developing the legal and normative framework for countering terrorism and by creating mechanisms for implementation. So what is it that we all wish to accomplish under this new initiative?

After fighting terrorism for the past 10 years, we have the benefit of the hindsight and an unprecedented opportunity to deal both with the symptoms and the causes of terrorism. We all are deeply aware of the unintended consequences of political decisions that can fuel the scourge of terrorism. Short-sighted methods of dealing with terrorism can offer ideological fodder to the causes of terrorists. What we are looking for, therefore, is a comprehensive and interlocking approach that is much more effective than our present effort and that is geared towards winning not only the battles but also the war.

We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. All acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations. In the past decade, we have collaborated, as the international community, to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat. We must attack and dismantle terrorist networks because they defy the writ of the State and kill innocent civilians, and we must persevere in our efforts to deter and defeat terrorists militarily.

And yet our success has been at best only partial. It is conventional wisdom and a compelling reality that terrorism will not be defeated by law enforcement measures, intelligence operations or military and security strategies alone. That is why we need a comprehensive approach. If we are to find sustainable solutions, we need to intensify our efforts to resolve long-festering conflicts and crises that spawn extremism.

Terrorists' misleading, distorted and malicious narrative, and their demented ideology that justifies the killing of innocent people must be quashed by the international community and the Security Council. It is our responsibility to counter terrorists' propaganda. Our stories about human dignity and values should be louder than their criminal sagas. We must move in concert to decrease the ideological space in which terrorists operate freely.

Development and security are interrelated. Development helps to meet basic human needs, build community resilience, and prevent terrorism. Job creation for young people and their participation in socioeconomic development create an enabling environment for the success of counterterrorism policies. Special emphasis needs to be laid on creating opportunities for people in regions scarred by terrorism to be gainfully employed so that terrorists can no longer lure them to their side.

We in Pakistan have seen that nothing works better as an effort of the international community in this regard than allowing preferential market access to products produced within the regions wracked by terrorism. An even more important track — perhaps — is dialogue. All those who have chosen the path of terrorism but are willing to renounce violence should be brought back into national and societal mainstreams. Reconciliation must be promoted. Fissures must be bridged.

We also have to foster a culture of the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and prevalence of good governance and tolerance.

I would just like to add a few more points to emphasize why counter-terrorism needs to be the focus of the Council.

First, terrorism continues to mutate every day into newer and different forms. Terrorists use new information and communication technologies and the Internet for recruitment and incitement, as well for planning and financing their activities. Counter-terrorism efforts need to adapt to those challenges and to develop quick-response strategies for real-time response.

Secondly, we should address the root causes of terrorism. Deprivation, marginalization, exclusion and stereotyping often create conditions for a drift to terrorism. That drift must be stemmed.

Thirdly, our collective and national measures to countering all forms of the financing of terrorism, including through the proceeds of organized crime and

illicit narcotics, should be made much more effective than they are today.

Fourthly, terrorism and extremism cannot, and should not, be associated with any religion, race, region, value system or society. Attributing the encouragement, incitement or inspiration of terrorist acts to any religious tradition or doctrine is unacceptable. An honest dialogue among different religions and civilizations is therefore a continuing political imperative.

Regional and subregional efforts are extremely important in the fight against terrorism. We need regional cooperation to impart education, bolster criminal justice systems, enhance connectivity, secure borders and tighten financial controls.Besides, regional cooperation is necessary to guarantee lasting peace and security.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have taken steps towards a strategic partnership to jointly fight terrorism — a multipronged approach to countering terrorism. We are supporting an Afghan-led and Afghan-driven reconciliation process and efforts aimed at creating a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. We believe that peace and stability in Afghanistan will have a direct, salutary impact on Pakistan.

Terrorism remains a serious threat to Pakistan. We have been one of the biggest victims of terrorism. We can therefore relate to, feel and share the pain and suffering caused by terrorism anywhere in the world.

Pakistan's comprehensive approach to countering terrorism is based on three d's, namely, deterrence, development and dialogue. The entire nation, the Government, the Parliament, the judiciary and civil society are determined to fight the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

Under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, we have pursued a multifaceted policy to deal with the threat of terrorism in a holistic and sustainable manner.

Pakistan has led from the front in the international community's fight against terrorism. Much of the success in the global fight against terrorism has been made possible with Pakistan's support and active cooperation. However, that success has come with a heavy cost for Pakistan and for Pakistanis; but that has not deterred our resolve. Pakistan's community resilience has been second to none.

The Pakistani armed forces and law enforcement officials have defended Pakistan and the rest of the world against the terrorist threat, at great cost. Some 150,000 troops are currently deployed on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to detect and degrade those ubiquitous terrorists who are enemies of our people. Seven thousand brave Pakistani soldiers, police and para-military forces and more than 37,000 innocent civilians, including men, women and children, have fallen victim to the blight of terrorism. Thousands more have been injured and disabled.

Pakistan's most popular leader, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, was assassinated by terrorists in 2007. Recently, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa leader and senior Minister Bashir Bilour, who spoke courageously against terrorism, was killed in a suicide bombing attack. Even the young, innocent teenage girl Malala Yousafzai, whom the Secretary-General referred to, could not escape the bullet of a terrorist. She survived, and we hope that her life will be a testimony to the resilience of the Pakistani people, including Pakistan's women.

Terrorists gain strength from various sources of financing. We should continue to refine measures to prevent and suppress their sources of funding coming from the abuse of charitable non-profit organizations, as well as from the proceeds from organized crime and illicit narcotics. Pakistan recently hosted a successful regional conference on counter-narcotics. We have also launched a thorough public-awareness campaign about the atrocities committed by terrorists.

The success of a counter-terrorist offensive cannot be measured only by the defeat of terrorists. After a successful operation in Swat and Malakand, for instance, we first had to absorb and then rehabilitate no fewer than 2.2 million displaced persons, through a massive national effort.

We also are focusing on the well-being and appropriate rehabilitation of victims of terrorism. We have invested energy and resources in deradicalization so that misguided youth can be reintegrated into society. We have established one such deradicalization centre at Saboon for that purpose, and we wish to establish many more.

The capacity-building needs of partner countries must be addressed with seriousness. The reluctance to share critical equipment and intelligence amounts to weakening those pitted against terrorists.

Terrorism undermines global stability and prosperity. It has undermined Pakistan's stability and economic prospects. That is why we have asked our

partners in the international community to enhance our market access for the products on which we have comparative and competitive advantages.

We believe in balancing hardcore national strategies with socioeconomic and community-driven plans. The Government of Pakistan is also investing in the development of affected areas, including in education, health, tourism, sports, the construction of roads, dams, canals and hydroelectric projects.

The United Nations and its subsidiary bodies have an important role in the implementation of its resolutions, the development of discourse on counter-terrorism and the dissemination of best practices among nation-States. The United Nations should continue to play a visible and effective role in leading counter-terrorism efforts. In that regard, it is critical that we maximize transparency, efficiency, coordination and synergy within the United Nations system.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that terrorism threatens us all. Joining forces and strengthening cooperation are key to success at the national and international levels. States need to continue to work more closely in the implementation of their counter-terrorism strategies. Terrorism can be defeated only by comprehensive and collective endeavours on the part of the international community in a cooperative framework. Pakistan will continue to play its role in that collective undertaking.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Asselborn (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): As this is the first time that Luxembourg is taking the floor in a public meeting of the Security Council, allow me, Madam President, to congratulate your country, Pakistan, on its assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January 2013. I also thank you for having organized this open debate on the theme of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism.

Today is also the first time in its history that Luxembourg has taken the floor in a public meeting as an elected member of the Security Council. We commit ourselves, in the course of the next two years, to contributing actively to the work of the Security Council in the exercise of the primary responsibility conferred upon it by States Members under the Charter of the United Nations, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security.

Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The Secretary-General aptly illustrated that fact in his presentation, for which I thank him. The threat is spreading, as the example of the Sahel demonstrates. Very recently, unfortunately, Pakistan was again the victim of deadly terrorist attacks. I would like, through you, Madam President, to extend to Pakistan the heartfelt condolences of my country. Luxembourg wishes to express its solidarity with all those who suffer because of terrorism, and to reaffirm the importance of respecting the rights of the victims of terrorism.

Luxembourg strongly condemns terrorism. We consider terrorist acts as unjustifiable criminal acts that must be prosecuted and punished regardless of their perpetrators. To counter this scourge, Luxembourg commits itself at the international level, at the European level and at the national level. European efforts will be outlined in the statement to be made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, which I wholeheartedly endorse.

As for United Nations efforts, it is commendable that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has expanded the framework of the fight against global terrorism to include not only repressive and security measures but also measures to ensure respect for human rights and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. That Strategy provides a comprehensive approach allowing for more effective responses to the threat of terrorism, by combining security, the rule of law, development goals and the protection of human rights, as the President just now said.

Indeed, in order to prevent terrorism, we must strengthen and make better use of United Nations capacities in areas such as conflict prevention, the primacy of law, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and development. Security and development are truly complementary. The long-term goal of any strategy in the fight against terrorism is to save lives and safeguard the well-being of the population. Conversely, development can help counter the appeal of terrorism, especially if it promotes youth employment, which is one of the priority areas of Luxembourg's development cooperation policy.

I would like to emphasize that the fight against terrorism must be guided by fundamental democratic values, human rights and good governance. All measures adopted to prevent and fight terrorism must respect the principle of the primacy of law, and they must be taken in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law. Indeed, experience has shown that serious violations of human rights may create conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In the same vein, counter-terrorism strategies must pay due attention to the promotion of tolerance, to dialogue and to respect for diversity. UNESCO has a major role to play in that regard, as has the Alliance of Civilizations, which Luxembourg has actively supported since its creation in 2005.

Luxembourg fully supports the work of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), and 1540 (2004), which are at the heart of the United Nations response to terrorism. Sanctions are an important tool in the international fight against terrorism. We recall the importance of prompt and effective implementation of applicable sanctions measures.

At the same time, the protection of human rights and respect for the primacy of law are of crucial importance if we want to achieve the ultimate goal of preventing and countering acts of terrorism. We welcome the measures adopted by the Security Council in recent years to ensure the application of clear, fair and transparent procedures in the work of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. We extend our full support to the Office of the Ombudsperson, which was established in December 2009 and whose mandate has just recently been renewed for a period of 30 months, until June 2015. It is important to work for steady improvement of procedures within the Council.

I would not want to conclude without saying a word about the struggle against the financing of terrorism. As an international financial centre, Luxembourg is conscious of its special responsibilities in the matter. My country has adopted a modern and coherent arsenal of legislative and regulatory measures in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Those measures are in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. Furthermore, Luxembourg is contributing to strengthening the capacity of developing countries to counter the financing of terrorism. For example, we have assisted Senegal by funding a training project developed by its Financial Intelligence Processing Unit, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The draft presidential statement prepared for this open debate is commendable for including all the ingredients of the comprehensive approach to the fight against terrorism that I have just set out. Luxembourg therefore fully endorses it. If together we succeed in translating its words into action I have no doubt that we will make decisive progress in the fight against terrorism.

Baroness Warsi (United Kingdom): I would like to begin, Madam President, by congratulating you and the Government of Pakistan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I am grateful to you for convening this important debate on taking a comprehensive approach to countering terrorism. Allow me also to thank the Secretary-General for his introductory remarks and briefing this morning.

Pakistan is on the front line of terrorism and is making enormous sacrifices. Thirty thousand Pakistani civilians have died in terrorist attacks since 9/11. In Britain, we understand the terrible losses terrorism has inflicted on the Pakistani people. We feel them deeply, too. The people of Pakistan will always have our sympathy, our understanding and our steadfast support in addressing those problems and in confronting terrorism. As Prime Minister David Cameron has said, Pakistan's enemy is our enemy.

Terrorism remains one of the most pressing and most challenging of the threats facing our world today. A united international response is the only way by which the scourge of terrorism can be defeated — a comprehensive approach to terrorism. The world has changed since the 9/11 attacks and other terrorist atrocities such as the Bali bombing and the 7/7 attacks in London. Globalization has made the world increasingly interconnected, its boundaries less clearly defined.

Those changes have brought many benefits, but they have also brought significant challenges that require a collective global response if we are to overcome them. The same applies without doubt to the terrorist threat we face today. It is more diverse and more fragmented but also more determined than ever to challenge the shared values on which the United Nations was founded. The United Kingdom therefore

welcomes the call for a more comprehensive approach to countering terrorism — comprehensive in terms of the number of countries working together to ensure its defeat and comprehensive in terms of the range of tools we deploy in our struggle against it.

When a terrorist threat is faced, a military response is sometimes unavoidable. But we must also recognize the link between instability and terrorism and the need to address the grievances and poverty that terrorists seek to exploit, to radicalize and to recruit from. In Yemen, for example, we need to expand access to justice, jobs and basic services in order to address those grievances. And in Somalia the work of our Department for International Development to support police training, to pilot community safety committees and to secure access to health care and humanitarian assistance is playing a crucial role in countering terrorist threats. The United Kingdom is keen to continue its support for the new Government of Somalia in its efforts to secure lasting peace and security in East Africa, building on the success of the London Somalia Conference last year.

Therefore, our broader counter-terrorism effort must continue to include work to bring countries out of poverty and to build stability. That requires us to take a truly holistic and comprehensive approach, bringing together diplomatic, development and defence work in countering terrorism.

We must not forget that financing is the lifeblood of terrorist networks. Cutting off that financing is core to countering terrorism. We therefore welcome the work of the United Nations and other international bodies, including the Financial Action Task Force, in setting international standards for combating terrorist financing and promoting their effective implementation. Terrorists are also quick to exploit the opportunities presented by technology. In the field of cybersecurity the United Kingdom is playing a key role in shaping an international cyberstrategy, including hosting the 2011 London Conference on Cyberspace. We welcome international initiatives, particularly in the United Nations, aimed at reducing the threat we face from cybercrime.

The United Kingdom is also working closely with our international partners to tackle other transnational threats such as drug and human trafficking. In particular, the United Kingdom welcomes and has adopted the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy emphasizes the importance of conducting counter-terrorism activity in conformity with international law. The United Kingdom strongly endorses that position. Compliance with international human rights obligations is vital to the sustainability of all our counter-terrorism work. We need to ensure that our collective capacity to arrest, prosecute and detain terrorists is in accordance with the human rights standards that United Nations Members have signed up to.

The United Kingdom is active also across the globe in providing security and justice assistance to international partners. In doing so, we consider it to be of critical importance that this work be consistent with our values. The United Kingdom has therefore developed specific guidance, the overseas security and justice assistance guidance, to ensure that all of our overseas counter-terrorism activity is in line with our fundamental human rights standards. All proposals for security and justice assistance overseas are now subject to that guidance.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead and coordinate the universal struggle against terrorism. United Nations resolutions provide the framework for international activity to counter terrorism, and United Nations bodies here in New York and around the world are working hard in different ways to help mitigate the terrorist threat that we all face. The United Kingdom welcomes the efforts of all these entities in helping to create the legal framework for countering terrorism by addressing the conditions that can give rise to violent extremism and through practical measures to help prevent terrorist attacks.

But with so many international bodies involved in that effort, 31 separate entities in all, there is a risk that activity is not as coordinated as it could be. We therefore continue to support the Secretary-General's call for the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, which we believe could increase the impact of the United Nations counter-terrorism effort and help to promote a truly comprehensive approach. We would need the right mandate, and we would need to think carefully about how best to use the available resources, but we remain convinced that more effective coordination within and between international

organizations is crucial to our success in tackling the global terrorist threat.

It is also important that the United Nations continue to strive to work as effectively and in as coordinated a manner as possible with other multinational organizations working on counter-terrorism. We welcome the regular European Union-United Nations counter-terrorism dialogue and look forward to increased operational cooperation as a result. Similarly, we welcome the important contribution that the United Nations makes to the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

Madam President, I should like to thank you once again for using the occasion of your presidency of the Security Council to shine the spotlight on this important issue. The United Kingdom remains determined to work with Security Council colleagues, the wider United Nations membership and the key United Nations counter-terrorism bodies to advance our collective comprehensive counter-terrorism efforts.

The President: I thank Baroness Swarsi for her comprehensive statement and for her support.

Mr. Cui Tiankai (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China expresses its appreciation to Pakistan for having proposed this open debate on counter-terrorism. I thank you, Madam President, for having travelled to New York to preside over this debate. I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing.

Pakistan is at the forefront of the international struggle against terrorism. The tremendous efforts and enormous sacrifices it has made in that regard are recognized by the whole world. On 10 January, several blasts took place in the city of Quetta, in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan, causing heavy casualties. China strongly condemns those attacks. We wish to express our deep condolences and sincere sympathy to the wounded and to the families of the victims. China rejects terrorism in all its forms and will continue to support the Government and people of Pakistan in their efforts to safeguard national stability and combat terrorism.

The convening of this meeting is a strong testament to Pakistan's responsible attitude towards the issue of counter-terrorism. China fully appreciates this effort. I am confident that our meeting today will help strengthen international consensus and contribute to international cooperation on counter-terrorism.

In the wake of the events of 11 September, the Security Council swiftly adopted resolution 1373 (2001), which led to the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. That reflects the international community's firm resolve to combat terrorism. In the ensuing years, some progress has been made, and the threat of terrorism on the whole is abating. On the other hand, the situation today remains quite serious. Terrorist activities are rampant in certain parts of the world, and the turbulence in certain other regions provides space for terrorist infiltration.

We have seen new developments concerning terrorist organizations. The average age of terrorist operatives has decreased, the methods employed are becoming more varied, and some organizations are joining together to form terrorist networks. In a word, the breeding ground for terrorism is far from having been eliminated, and international counter-terrorism cooperation remains a long and uphill battle.

Today's open debate offers a valuable opportunity to explore effective and comprehensive ways to combat terrorism. I wish to set out the following positions of my Government on international counter-terrorism cooperation.

First, we need to fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries concerned. In combating terrorism, it is important to adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries; fully listen to their views and opinions; and carry out international cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Without global support, the fight against terrorism cannot be sustained. Therefore, the international community should provide more assistance to those developing countries that suffer from a lack of capacity, while respecting the wishes of such countries.

Secondly, we need to leverage the role of the United Nations and its Security Council as the main channel of cooperation. Terrorism is a threat to global peace and security. China supports the important role of the United Nations and its Security Council in coordinating national efforts and shaping a global response. It is important for countries to strictly abide by the relevant Security Council resolutions and fully implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and we hope that there will be better coordination and greater synergy among

the various counter-terrorism agencies of the United Nations.

Thirdly, we need to adopt a comprehensive approach in addressing the root causes as well as the symptoms of this scourge. Terrorism is the result of a complex array of political, economic and social factors; it cannot be resolved by military means alone. Counter-terrorism efforts must be combined with economic growth and the proper settlement of regional conflict. There should also be more dialogue and exchanges between different civilizations, religions and ethnic groups, so as to promote mutual understanding, tolerance and harmonious coexistence. A comprehensive approach involving political, economic and diplomatic means should be employed in order to eliminate the root causes of terrorist activities.

Fourthly, we need to reject double standards. Terrorism is the arch-enemy of all humankind. Terrorist activities, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, under whatever pretext, should be condemned and combated. There should not be different standards for different attacks. The fight against terrorism should not be determined by ideology, nor should it be associated with specific countries, Governments, ethnicities or religious beliefs. On this issue, the international community should build greater consensus and speak in one voice.

China has been suffering from terrorism. For years, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and associated groups have carried out numerous violent terrorist attacks against China, causing heavy casualties and economic losses in my country. Definitive evidence abounds. Such attacks are grave threats not only to China's national security, but also to the peace and stability of our region. The international community should join hands in a united effort against it.

China has consistently played an active role in international exchanges on counter-terrorism cooperation. My Government has signed 12 relevant international conventions within the United Nations framework and faithfully implemented resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001). Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001), China has submitted seven reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, documenting China's implementation of the resolution and the latest progress in its counter-terrorism endeavours.

China has also taken an active part in international cooperation against terrorism financing. We have signed cooperation memorandums with 20 foreign financial intelligence agencies and joined the Financial Action Task Force, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money-Laundering. We have also provided, as our ability permits, material assistance and training to support the counterterrorism efforts of other developing countries.

The world has made considerable progress in the fight against terrorism. However, there is still a long way to go. The international community should strive tirelessly and take a comprehensive approach in order to wipe out terrorist threats. China pledges its continued efforts to that end.

Mr. Amrani (Morocco): I would like first to express our deep appreciation to Pakistan for convening a special debate under its presidency of the Security Council on the important subject of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. The Kingdom of Morocco shares Pakistan's commitment to strengthening the international fight against terrorism and welcomes the concept paper prepared by the Pakistani delegation for our debate (S/2013/3, annex). I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his insightful briefing, and to commend his commitment to reinforcing the United Nations leadership in combating terrorism and in mobilizing resources and expertise to strengthen the capacity of Members States.

Over the past few years, the international community has steadily built stronger consensus, efficient strategies and a robust architecture with the aim of better responding to terrorism. Those major efforts have disrupted terrorist structures, foiled a number of terrorist plots and weakened the central command of major terrorist groups. However, the trends and methods of international terrorism continue to evolve, and terrorist groups are constantly adapting their modus operandi. Terrorist groups have developed a more regional agenda, with an even stronger nexus between terrorists and transnational organized crime networks and a more intensive use of information and communication technology.

Terrorism is a highly complex and multidimensional phenomenon that we must address through renewed consensus and effective cooperation. If it is to be effective, our collective response to terrorism should rely on a comprehensive approach and dedicated

strategies at the national, regional and international levels.

The United Nations, as the appropriate and legitimate multilateral framework, has developed a robust counter-terrorism architecture. Over the past decade, the Security Council has shown remarkable determination in countering terrorism by adopting a significant number of resolutions, and it continues to strengthen the work of its counter-terrorism committees. As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Morocco is committed to working with all Member States Members to strengthen the action taken by the CTC to consolidate a strategic, transparent approach and to further strengthen facilitation and coordination of the provision of technical assistance that enhances Member States' capacities to counter terrorism.

We have today the tools. We have the instruments. I believe that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, represents the most comprehensive and effective decision taken by the international community to eliminate the dangerous threat and to improve United Nations action. We also commend the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for its consistent efforts to coordinate international support.

Despite all those positive developments, terrorism remains a prominent threat to international peace and security. The United Nations must intensify its efforts, adapt its responses to the new patterns of terrorism, and diversify its partnership with regional and subregional organizations. In that context, we reiterate, as other delegations have reiterated this morning, our readiness to pursue discussions on all proposals seeking to further enhance the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, including the proposal of the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. Likewise, the United Nations should explore better ways to interact with other multilateral initiatives actively involved in the global fight against terrorism.

In that regard, allow me to recall the important work done by the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in seeking to improve national and international capacities for prevention, detection and response to a nuclear terrorist event. I recall in particular its most recent meeting in Rabat. We would also like to highlight the early and important achievements of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, in particular the Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector, adopted last year.

Morocco has established a comprehensive and multidimensional counter-terrorism approach, rooted in its early commitment to contributing actively to the preservation of peace and security at all levels. The strategy is guided by Morocco's attachment to the values of tolerance, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. It also converges with the United Nations Strategy and complies with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant United Nations resolutions and other international legal instruments to which Morocco is party.

The proactive Moroccan approach has been successfully translated into firm and preventive law enforcement measures with a dedicated counter-terrorism justice system, as well as into national initiatives aimed at addressing the various social, economic and cultural factors involved.

Our effective approach is rooted in a series of essential building blocks, in particular the total rejection by all Moroccan citizens of terrorism and violence as means to achieve political objectives. Our firm commitment to pursuing irreversible democratic reforms, with human development as a shared and important priority, today provides Morocco with the best safeguard against the spread of violent extremism.

Morocco has devoted equal attention and commitment to preventing the spread of terrorism and extremism at the regional level. For years, Morocco has persistently warned the international community about the deteriorating situation in the Sahel region, which continues to face complex multidimensional and interconnected challenges. The Sahel has emerged today as the centre stage of alarming activities involving terrorist and extremist groups that threaten the stability and security of the States of the Sahel, West Africa, the Maghreb and beyond. A year ago, the State of Mali saw the northern part of its territory progressively fall to armed extremist terrorist groups. Two thirds of its territory is now in the hands of terrorist elements whose confidence is ever-increasing, given the slow response of the international community to dislodge them. That state of mind was reflected in their actions last week, when they broke the de facto six-month ceasefire in place, thereby defying the decisions taken by the Security Council. In the wake of those alarming developments, Morocco supports the recent call of the Government of Mali for outside assistance to combat

the terrorist elements and the response that is now being provided by bilateral partners.

At the regional level, let me reiterate our call for a sustainable framework for dialogue, cooperation and solidarity — one that encompasses all States of the Sahel and the Maghreb in order to address in a holistic and effective manner the critical situation in the Sahel region. We need further joint responsibility, inclusive cooperation and constructive partnership to face those challenges.

In conclusion, terrorism emanates from a complex set of interrelated political, economic and social factors. In combating it, we should not lose sight of the need to address the underlying causes by promoting political reforms and human development, eliminating social injustice and resolving regional conflicts. To provide sustainable solutions, terrorism must be addressed in a holistic manner that does not rely solely on military and law-enforcement measures, but also emphasizes the human dimension of the cooperation.

We thereby firmly believe that the United Nations should remain the central framework to effectively take forward our fight against terrorism. We are equally convinced that national counter-terrorism strategies should include systematic and efficient regional and subregional cooperation.

In keeping with its values and principles, Morocco intends to remain an active and fully committed partner of the United Nations and the entire international community in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism

Our commitment could not be better expressed than by the words of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco:

> "With regard to the fight against terrorism, Morocco will continue to implement a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy, in which security, democratic reforms and development efforts support and complement one another. Under that strategy, cultural creativity and enlightened thinking will also be encouraged, together with a firm commitment to the rule of law and to equality before the law and the nation's legal system".

Mr. Zmeevsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First of all, allow me to express my appreciation to the Pakistani presidency for the initiative to hold this Council meeting on the strengthening of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. The Russian Federation supports that approach through national measures and in advancing international counter-terrorism cooperation under the central coordinating role of the United Nations and the Security Council.

We consider today's meeting a practical manifestation of that general course and the logical continuation of the special meetings on counter-terrorism held by the Council last year (see S/PV.6765 and S/PV.6890).

Unfortunately, the terrorist threat has not declined. A few days ago, a number of savage terrorist acts in Pakistan caused many casualties. We express our condolences to the bereaved family members and loved ones, our solidarity with them and our wishes for the victims' speedy recovery.

Terrorism is quickly adapting to new realities and adopting a new dimension and gravity. Reports on terrorist acts issue more frequently from regions previously untouched by such acts. We are facing an exceptionally dangerous global challenge to today's world order and civilization that is hard to predict and threatens international peace and security.

New grave problems in counter-terrorism security are building, spurred by conflict situations in North Africa, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. That has resulted in increased terrorist group activities, including mobile cross-border displacement, rapid weapon acquisition — mostly from Libyan arsenals — and the establishment of new sources of financing. Terrorism is integrating more tightly with organized crime, including in West Africa and the Sahel region. It is no coincidence that criminal challenges in that region at the start of the past year became the subject of an open meeting of the Council (see S/PV.6765).

The activity of Al-Qaida and the Taliban in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region continues to generate transnational terrorist threats, along with the illegal production and trafficking of narcotics.

Terrorism is a non-traditional adversary. Terrorist organizations, unlike States, have no international obligations, bear no responsibility to society and operate under other references and moral practices. Assisted by modern information technologies and the Internet, terrorists have actively spread their ideology in order to recruit, organize and train rebels.

A very dangerous trend is the determined spread of terrorist ideology and violent extremism often seen in anonymous inputs to social networks, under slogans of democracy and reform calling for the organization of street protests. We must be concerned about media broadcasts depicting crowds of dissatisfied people determined to protest under Al-Qaida flags and portraits of Osama Bin Laden.

Equally, we are concerned about attempts made by supporters of Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations to infiltrate Governments and civic organizations. Against that backdrop, a growing destructive wave of radicalism is provoking dangerous interreligious tensions in various regions, resulting in favourable conditions for attracting new adherents — especially young people — to such movements.

One extremely alarming trend is the integration of terrorism into today's regional and other armed conflicts, as seen, for example, in Mali. Under the flag of separatism, terrorists directly threaten the territorial integrity of States, thus undermining the foundations of international peace and security.

It is encouraging that in neutralizing the terrorist threat in that country, the international community — as was particularly evident in yesterday's Council consultations — is using common approaches. At the same time, we cannot but be concerned by the lack of a common Council position with respect to condemning the terrorist acts and threats in Syria, particularly in view of the growing influence among the opposition of terrorist organizations linked to Al-Qaida.

The transnational nature of today's terrorist threats requires the entire international community to pool its efforts to ensure effective cooperation in countering that dangerous challenge. A good effort has been made in that context, namely, the establishment of a global collective response to terrorist challenges that includes a solid treaty base, participation in which we must expand. On that basis, an extensive institutional cooperation model has been established under the central coordinating role of the United Nations.

Regional, subregional and bilateral counter-terrorism efforts are developing dynamically. The scope and results of that work have, in turn, improved effective law enforcement cooperation under international, regional and bilateral formats. As a result, the potential of terrorist organizations has been significantly hampered through obstacles to the spread of their work and depriving them of important financial and logistical support channels.

Nevertheless, the challenges in providing a timely and appropriate response to the changing terrorist threat remains a priority issue of the United Nations and the Security Council. We support strengthened cooperation among the General Assembly, without prejudice to the independent, active role of the Council in that area.

We attach vital importance to the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), concerning counter-terrorism; the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011).

We note that with the December 2012 agreement of the Council on two resolutions on Al-Qaida and the Taliban, the Council has maintained its focus on the existing sanctions mechanisms in order to counter credible terrorist threats emanating from those organizations. Measures ensuring the transparency of those sanctions and allowing them freedom to operate should promote their effectiveness and increase their support for the quality of their work combating the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

It is an international imperative that we prevent any kind of assistance to terrorists, whether military, technical or financial. States that disregard this obligation will eventually find that it backfires on them and will pay with their citizens' lives for pandering to terrorism. One of the urgent tasks we face is ensuring the full implementation of resolution 2017 (2011), adopted on Russia's initiative, which calls for a cluster of measures aimed at combating the uncontrolled proliferation of arms in Libya, particularly man-portable air-defence systems, This area has become an extremely dangerous source of support for terrorist and criminal organizations, not just in the Sahara-Sahel region but far beyond its boundaries.

Also still relevant is the goal laid out in resolution 1624 (2005) of countering the ideology of terrorism by creating an atmosphere of total repudiation within the global community. It is essential that the struggle for people's minds and hearts be conducted on the basis of a deepened intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among civilizations and religions that

firmly suppresses incitement to terrorism in all its forms. We must therefore establish effective cooperation with civil society in order to neutralize manifestations of violent extremism and terrorism at the earliest stages.

The goal of universal implementation of the General Assembly's approved Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is more important than ever. It is a harmonious combination of hard and soft counter-terrorism approaches, the goals of various high-profile Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The results of the third review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held in June last year present additional possibilities for building on the work of improving complex approaches to combating terrorism.

In the context of the theme of today's meeting, and bearing in mind the rapidly changing character of the global terrorist threat, it is especially important that the international community establish measures not only to respond quickly to crisis situations but also to prevent them altogether. We attach vital importance to the issues of preventing terror, suppressing the production of ideologies of extremism and violence, including by combating incitement to terrorism, as well as preventing the use of media spaces or the global Internet for terrorist purposes. It is vital that we develop consolidated responses to new terrorist threats, including in cyberspace. Practical efforts to comply with Security Council requests on banning terrorism propaganda sites, such as Kavkazcenter.com, the Swedish-based information mouthpiece of the terrorist organization Imarat Kavkaz, should also include the development of a global agreement as a basis for combating the use of cyberspace for terrorist and other criminal purposes, through organizing practical cooperation and confidence-building in this area.

The terrorism of mass destruction increases the threat to international peace and security, and steps to prevent nuclear terrorism are particularly relevant. It is essential to broaden States' participation in major United Nations and International Atomic Energy Agency conventions, in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and in implementing the decisions of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. The Committee established pursuant to 1540 (2004) should play an important role in achieving these goals.

Russia intends to continue to actively support counter-terrorism efforts under United Nations auspices, including through our own expert experience and practice. In October, we received a mission from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to evaluate our country's implementation of individual provisions of the Security Council's baseline anti-terrorism resolutions, 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The results of the visit demonstrated Russia's commitment to the work of increasing international cooperation in this area under United Nations auspices and affirmed our contribution, as a permanent member of the Council, to the development and advancement of international standards in the field.

We see socioeconomic prevention as one of the most important anti-terrorism priorities today and impossible without vigorous targeted measures aimed at caring for people and ensuring and protecting their rights, including the right to a dignified and secure existence and decent compensation for honest labour. People must be able to see an alternative to terrorism and other criminality and have the opportunity to make a conscious choice for development and creation. Contributions to achieving socioeconomic development projects could be made not only by States but also by United Nations anti-terrorism bodies and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), together with specialized economic organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and regional bodies such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States. This type of synergy would open a new chapter in international donorship, uniting cooperative development with the fight against terrorism and other criminality.

We believe it is particularly important to involve the business community in such efforts. In dealing with the challenges of preventing terrorism, this would help to weaken the socioeconomic basis of criminality, which as a rule puts down deep roots precisely in those places where poverty and unemployment prevail and the conditions for normal life are lacking. Partnerships with business are also useful for developing effective measures for ensuring the rights of victims of terrorism, including compensation through transnational insurance and reinsurance models for major acts of terrorism.

Russia was the initiator of an international project partnering States with businesses in the fight against terrorism. At the proposal of the Russian presidency

of the Group of Eight, a major conference was held in Moscow in 2006 to lay the foundations for such cooperation and seeing fulfilment in the form of numerous projects both in Russia itself and at the international level. In our view, it is currently important to support the decision, taken on Russia's initiative in April 2012, of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to begin work on establishing the foundations of international cooperation in providing security in the area of tourism from terrorist and other criminal threats. As part of a public-private partnership, a project is being developed under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to prevent the flow of precious metals into the hands of terrorists and other criminals.

It is essential that efforts be continued to trace and cut off financial sources supporting terrorism. On Russia's initiative, the Financial Action Task Force is working on such relevant issues as exposing financial flows from the illegal production and trade of Afghan narcotics, a significant part of which goes to financing terrorism. Needless to say, finding solutions to these new challenges should in no way be seen as undermining the law-enforcement components of counter-terrorism, including information exchange, the conduct of joint anti-terrorist workshops and operations, cooperation on the criminal prosecution of terrorists and their resulting punishment, the suppression of financing, delivery of arms and other forms of support, as well as cooperation with training qualified staff and improving national legislation.

These challenges can be met only on the basis of a firm commitment to the principles laid down in the United Nations Charter and the decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. Above all, we are talking about respecting States' sovereignty, non-interference in their internal affairs, observing human rights and fundamental freedoms, condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever terrorist acts may be committed, and refraining from supporting such criminal activity in any way. It is categorically unacceptable to depart in any way from the international community's principled and consolidated position unconditionally condemning and actively combating terrorism. Political unscrupulousness in that regard will lead to an objective increase in the risks of terrorism.

Combating international terrorism remains a priority of Russia's foreign policy. We support the draft presidential statement to be delivered as a result of today's meeting, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the comprehensive approach to international anti-terrorist cooperation under United Nations auspices. We wish to continue the dialogue and constructive cooperation in this area with all States Members of the United Nations, with the aim of increasing confidence in and unswerving compliance with international law.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): Thank you, Madam, for having convened this very important meeting. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and participation today.

I would like to express once again our deepest condolences for the horrific attacks in Pakistan last week that killed more than 100 people. The United States stands with the Pakistani people in strongly condemning these senseless and inhumane acts, which unfortunately remind us that the scourge of terrorism remains with us all. We therefore very much appreciate Pakistan's drawing the Council's attention back to this critical issue.

Reflecting on the past decade, the Security Council's sustained commitment to counter-terrorism has been significant. We have continued to promote a holistic approach to combating terrorism, strengthening counter-terrorism efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

We cannot grow complacent. Even as core Al-Qaida has experienced major setbacks, it survives and continues to threaten us all. Moreover, its affiliates and other violent extremist groups pose grave dangers. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is a significant international threat. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Shabaab continue to sow instability and exploit safe havens in Mali, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, destabilizing societies and obstructing the delivery of vital humanitarian relief to millions in need. Elements of Boko Haram in Nigeria have launched multiple deadly attacks, including against the United Nations, and transnational terrorist groups remain active in North Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria and elsewhere.

The resilience of terrorist networks underscores the fact that long-term diplomatic and economic initiatives, as well as international cooperation, are as

always indispensible. While we have made progress together, terrorist groups continue to adapt, evolving into criminal entrepreneurs and engaging in trafficking and other illicit activities to finance their operations. AQIM, for example, has increasingly used kidnapping for ransom to support its organization and finance terrorist attacks. Kidnapping for ransom is not only horrific for the victims and their families, but represents a serious threat to international peace and security that will likely continue to pose a significant challenge in the years ahead. The international community must do much more to combat this scourge.

With the terrorist threat ever more diffuse, the need for a strategic and comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism has never been greater. The United States recognizes that force, while necessary, is not nearly sufficient to counter the threat effectively over the long term. We must also prioritize building State capacity, strengthening good governance and civilian institutions, promoting economic development and job creation, countering extremism and reducing the appeal of violence and the pipeline of terrorist recruits so that Member States and their citizens are better equipped to tackle threats within their borders and regions.

At the same time, the United States has intensified our capacity-building assistance to help countries secure their borders, thwart attacks, prosecute terrorists and those who abet them, and neutralize extremism and its root causes. We have trained more than 9,800 law enforcement officials from over 50 countries in the past year alone. United States legal advisers are working with host country Governments worldwide to build justice sector capacity to deal with terrorism. Our trans-Sahara counter-terrorism partnership has provided several countries in the Sahel and the Maghreb with training and support to tighten border security, promote economic assistance, disrupt terrorist networks and prevent attacks. By uniting civilian, criminal justice and military experts, this programme pursues a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. In addition, we established the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to confront and rebut Al-Qaida and extremist propaganda online.

The United States values its partnership with the United Nations on counter-terrorism, and our cooperation has produced results. For example, since effective prison management and good correctional practices can reduce the risk of radicalization, the United States has worked with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to develop the Rome good practices on the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders. We look forward to close cooperation between the United Nations and the new Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi, which will assist experts to develop tools for countering extremist ideology and blunting the spread of radicalism. Strengthening cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral organizations and ensuring that the necessary architecture is in place to address terrorism in the twenty-first century remains central to our approach.

The United Nations has worked actively to build consensus around the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and deliver technical assistance to strengthen capacities worldwide. The United Nations has a critical role to play as a forum for advancing collective action against terrorism. The United States welcomes the Secretary-General's initiative to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator and unify the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture so that expertise and resources can be deployed as efficiently as possible.

We hope for even deeper cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in the coming year as the Forum promotes the implementation of its framework documents on the rule of law, prisons and preventing kidnapping for ransom. We look forward to working in the Security Council and with Member States to further strengthen implementation of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime.

A key lesson of the past decade is the significant value that civil society can add to counter-terrorism efforts. Victims and victims associations, for example, have played important roles in preventing terrorism. We encourage all relevant United Nations actors to intensify engagement with and support for civil society on counter-terrorism objectives and combating violent extremism.

No single country, no one organization and no particular tactic or tool alone can neutralize the threat of terrorism. Only a comprehensive approach, bolstered by our shared determination, our continued cooperation and expanding partnerships can ultimately end the threat of global terrorism.

Ms. Squeff (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, Argentina wishes to express its sincere

condolences to the people and Government of Pakistan and to the families of victims of the recent terrorist attacks in that country.

I congratulate Pakistan on having assumed this month's presidency of the Security Council and on the effectiveness and transparency with which the Pakistani delegation has been guiding our work. I further wish to thank you, Madam, for having convened this very important and timely debate on one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. We are pleased in particular that you are presiding over this meeting.

Terrorism is a threat to life, human dignity, peaceful and civilized coexistence, and international peace and security. We believe that a comprehensive approach to the problem is not only the most appropriate but in fact the only approach with the potential to succeed. In that regard, the approach proposed by the presidency to addressing the issue of terrorism could not be more timely.

Argentina is convinced that the United Nations has a priority role to play in multilateral action. In that respect, we consider the Assembly and the Security Council and their relevant subsidiary bodies to be the most appropriate forums for effective action to prevent and eradicate terrorism. These are the bodies where we are able to take the best decisions, and whose critical effectiveness and legitimacy encourage joint action. In this connection, we believe that the Council should continue to work to ensure that these bodies are more effective and transparent, and that they be endowed with an appropriate mechanism to review the measures they take. In all cases, such bodies should resolve problems without creating consquences for the population in general.

In September 2005, the former President of my country, Mr. Néstor Kirchner, stated forcefully at the Security Council summit that new threats to international peace and security, such as terrorism, "make us understand at last the true meaning of solidarity among nations" (*S/PV.5261, p. 6*). In the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a comprehensive approach to this matter strengthens our work in those areas where there is the greatest deficit, principally with regard to conditions that lead to the spread of terrorism and its financing, such as ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the bases for our fight against terrorism.

Neither religious nor ethnic differences nor economic circumstances can justify terrorist acts. On the other hand, tolerance and the rule of law, with full social inclusion and dignified work, foster an environment that counters the spread of terrorism and fights this scourge, as recognized in the draft presidential statement to be adopted by the Council.

Argentina's tragic experience of State terrorism, which led to massive and systematic violations of human rights, has led us to strengthen State policies in various areas of human rights, in particular with regard to memory, truth, justice and redress. In this framework, we galvanized international support for the progressive development of the right to truth with the recent creation of a Special Rapporteur in the Human Rights Council, and promoted the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Moreover, my country has suffered directly from international terrorism as the victim of two serious bombings in Buenos Aires in 1992 against the embassy of Israel and in 1994 against the headquarters of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, which is one of the most important social organizations in Argentina. Those acts killed more than 100 people, whose memory is honoured by the Argentine people. A number of victims and their families survive. Together with the Government, they must walk the path towards truth, justice and redress. That experience has reaffirmed our conviction that terrorism must be fought in the framework of the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms. The struggle should be carried out in full respect for the law, including respect for due process and human rights.

Terrorism, as one of the so-called new threats, is an illicit act with the capacity to affect domestic security and undermine public institutions. Actions to counteract it must correspond to the genuine risk faced by each country as it identifies threats in order to prioritize prevention. In Argentina, we have conferred upon the Ministry of National Security the leader role in coordinating inter-agency policy among the various agencies that are competent in this field. For its part, the Secretariat for Intelligence directs and coordinates the national intelligence system through its practical relationship with national intelligence bodies and forums.

In that regard, we believe that the Security Council must commit its efforts, thorugh its relevant bodies,

to promoting international cooperation in this area. This includes judicial cooperation, both with regard to extradiction and mutual assistance and in the fight against the financing of terrorism. To this end, we urge Member States to incorporate and apply in their internal legislation international legal instruments and United Nations resolutions relating to terrorism, so as to ensure that those who are accused of such crimes cannot exploit legal vacuums in order to evade justice.

Within the multilateral and regional systems, we must work on speedy and effective mechanisms to freeze terrorist funds, taking into account the importance of dismantling the economic structures that support such organizations. In our case, we drafted a law for the effective implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) with regard to the procedure for the official freezing of funds related to this crime. It has been implemented by the competent body on fugitives associated with State terrorism and who are being investigated for crimes against humanity.

Before ending, I would stress that the leadership is in the hands of the Organization, but its work is complemented, as required by the Charter of the United Nations, by subregional and regional efforts and by specialized agencies cooperating on matters of global interest. One example of this is port and aeroport security and border controls, in which we must all continue to cooperate because they are additional, critical elements in our joint action against international terrorism.

In conclusion, I affirm that the Argentine Republic supports the draft presidential statement to be read out by the President on behalf of the Security Council.

Mr. Esaw (Togo) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to convey the condolences and solidarity of our country following the terrorist acts that recently struck the people of Pakistan. I would also like to commend your country for organizing today's debate on the question of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism and to welcome the presence in New York of Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, to preside over this meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, not only for his briefing on the topic under discussion, but also for all his efforts and for the ongoing United Nations initiatives to curb terrorism.

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In recent years, terrorism has become one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Indeed, the killings, kidnappings, hostage-taking and murders committed and called for by terrorists are serious violations of the rights to life and to live in a peaceful environment. Terrorism threatens the very survival of States. Consequently, this scourge remains the focus of the attention of the international community and especially of the Security Council. Today's debate is a perfect illustration of that.

Unfortunately, the tireless efforts to deal with it are far from achieving the expected results because terrorists take advantage of cutting-edge technologies and financial resources derived from criminal acts of all kinds, such as illicit trafficking in drugs and the payment of ransoms, in order to reorganize. In addition, the propensity of terrorists often to operate through business enterprises, associations and non-governmental organizations, which comprise their support networks, further complicates the fight against terrorism. As a result, the threats become more complex and require our States to devote significant resources to the fight against terrorism at a time when they must also face many challenges that are urgent in many ways because they are related to the fight against poverty and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Given its various manifestations and mutations, it is important to define the phenomenon of terrorism in order to better fight it. It is therefore necessary to better understand the reasons and motives that drive actors to turn to terrorism. As we know, it more generally feeds off of situations of social vulnerability and the frustrations of individuals, especially young people, who are willing to offer their services for sordid causes in order to survive. Development and security thus interact on the levels of both causes of terrorism and its consequences.

It is also important to remember that religious fundamentalism and sectarianism act as leavening agents for terrorism. Based on beliefs, dogmas and membership in a community, criminal groups use that form of expression, intolerant and uncompromising, as a means to assert their opinions.

Another motive may be related to the internationalization of economies and societies, which has made the process of change more global

and complex, creating a situation in which the State finds itself competing with and sometimes defeated by private interests dominated more by the pursuit of profit than by other values related to human dignity.

Unfortunately, the economic and financial crises of recent years, which no nation was able to stave off, have further widened the gap between rich and poor and have led to frustration, despair and even to losing the reason to live. It is that vulnerability that terrorist organizations and groups exploit when they recruit desperate people to carry out their demands through terrorist acts, behind which they hide and for which they claim responsibility so that they can bask in the prestige of being fighters for justice.

The spectrum of factors leading to the spread of terrorism is therefore broad. However, my delegation believes that even if poverty, discrimination and prejudice are factors that feed terrorism, no justification can prevail in the commission of criminal acts when there are frameworks for dialogue, negotiation and a search for compromise in which the various actors can assert their claims or views.

Given the scale of the terrorist acts that undermine societies and bring about disastrous consequences for States and entire regions — as is the case for the Sahel region, including Mali, and in Somalia — the international community must remain constantly mobilized. We therefore welcome the counter-terrorism efforts in the United Nations framework, particularly the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which represents the willingness of Member States to develop a common strategic approach to fight terrorism effectively and sustainably. In that regard, my country welcomes the recent review of the Strategy, which allows for continuous updating of the various aspects that need to be addressed in the light of the changing nature of terrorism.

The commitment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to allow States to have the capacity needed to deal with this scourge must also be welcomed. In addition, Togo fully supports the work of the Security Council committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), and 1540 (2004), which are also at the heart of the United Nations response to terrorism.

My country has always made the fight against terrorism one of the top priorities of its actions. It has also adopted the framework made up by the various legal instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and regional organizations such as the African Union, which aim to improve the effectiveness of States' responses and those of the international community with regard to the numerous manifestations of terrorism.

Although there are a number of anti-terrorist legal instruments in force for the purpose of strengthening international anti-terrorist mechanisms, a general convention on international terrorism should be adopted to fill the gaps in existing treaties and to strengthen international efforts designed to bring the perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice. In that regard, we believe that the consideration by States Members of the United Nations of certain provisions of existing regional legal texts, such as the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, of 14 July 1999, and its Protocol of 8 July 2004, could help to overcome the difficulties related to the conclusion of an international convention.

Because of the impact of poverty, inequality and intolerance of all sorts in the spread of terrorism, we believe that the security and legal dimensions of the fight against terrorism cannot be effective unless they are also considered in the light of efforts related to good governance, economic development, the creation of viable democratic institutions, the strengthening of the dialogue among civilizations, respect for cultural differences and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Furthermore, the fight against terrorism should also take human rights into account and promote their effective implementation.

In other words, all measures taken to prevent and fight against terrorism must respect the principle of the rule of law and operate in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law, international human rights law and refugee law. In that regard, the United Nations could commit to working towards model legislation on terrorism-related offences, as specified in the relevant conventions and protocols, as it had to do when it acted in the areas of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

A comprehensive approach to the fight against terrorism cannot be effective unless it takes place in the context of sustained international cooperation. Synergy of action, the sharing of information between the different institutions involved in the fight and technical and financial assistance are essential to achieve, in the

short and medium terms, the eradication of the constant threat hanging over all countries and all peoples.

Togo believes that it is through combined actions at the bilateral, regional and international levels that States, especially the less affluent, may expect to fight effectively against terrorism. To that end, the central coordinating role of the United Nations must be reaffirmed and supported by all States.

Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to thank the Pakistani presidency of the Security Council for its timely initiative in holding this important debate on a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. I also thank the Secretary-General for his insightful briefing and express our appreciation to the Secretariat and the relevant United Nations entities for their contribution to counter-terrorism activities.

Azerbaijan knows about the scourge of terrorism, and not from hearsay. My country has repeatedly been a target of terrorist attacks. The activity of well-known State-sponsored international terrorist groups, the ideology of which is based on historical, racial and religious prejudice and hatred, is a serious threat to Azerbaijan's national security and to the security of our region as a whole.

It was not a coincidence that Azerbaijan decided to focus on the issue of combating terrorism as a central theme of its presidency of the Security Council last year. On 4 May 2012, Azerbaijan organized a high-level meeting of the Security Council on strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations (see S/PV.6765). As an important outcome of that, a presidential statement was adopted (S/PRST/2012/17). In his address to the Security Council, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, underlined

> "We must all join our efforts to combat terrorism. The nature of terrorism today and its increasing connection with other threats to international peace and security require close international cooperation among States, including through the establishment of a more coordinated, coherent and systematic United Nations approach" (*S/PV.6765, p. 23*).

The President of Azerbaijan also outlined the concrete threats and challenges faced by my country and provided a comprehensive analysis and assessment in that regard.

My Government has continually taken comprehensive measures to fully implement its respective international obligations and to contribute to the global fight against this scourge. We strongly support and actively work for more strengthened international cooperation to that end.

It is pertinent to mention that, in furtherance of our efforts, on 18 and 19 March, Azerbaijan will host an international conference on strengthening cooperation in preventing terrorism, co-organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The conference will bring together Heads of State and Government, ministers, heads of international organizations, prominent persons and members of civil society and academia. Its objectives include initiating an in-depth and forward-looking exchange of views on challenges to and opportunities for countering terrorism, reviewing the ways of promoting international cooperation and, most importantly, generating concrete ideas and project proposals for providing technical assistance to national authorities with a view to strengthening their capacities.

With its changing nature and character, terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of all States. Today, when our world continues to suffer from terrorism and terrorist acts, in their frequency and magnitude, claim the lives of innocent people and undermine peace and security, a comprehensive approach to combating this scourge through concerted and coordinated international actions remains vital.

The international community, including through United Nations efforts, has achieved tangible results in countering terrorism. At the same time, a number of critical areas continue to require our constant attention. I would like to emphasize some of them.

Conflict-affected territories, especially those under foreign military occupation, often provide fertile ground for terrorists and other non-State actors, who use terrorism as a means of achieving their illegal goals. The accumulation of armaments and ammunition in those territories beyond international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials to non-State actors pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

While recognizing the significance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we stress the need to intensify conflict-resolution efforts on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, particularly those relating to respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of States.

The full implementation of international legal obligations by all States is fundamentally important. However, it is not sufficient to simply mention that objective. A large number of States encounter capacity gaps in implementing their respective obligations. Addressing that perennial problem should remain at the core of international counter-terrorism efforts. We appreciate the role of the relevant United Nations entities in facilitating technical assistance to Member States. At the same time, in order to respond effectively and in a timely manner to the various security challenges posed by terrorism, it is essential that Member States themselves strengthen their cooperation through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms on the issue of capacity-building assistance.

The war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. That principle must be part and parcel of any counter-terrorism strategy. All States should be united in supporting various initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the culture of peace initiative. Strengthening cooperation within those initiatives will serve to prevent misconceptions, defamatory manifestations and deliberate labelling of religions and contribute to the efficiency of counter-terrorism efforts.

As a responsible member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, Azerbaijan is actively engaged in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue. We therefore recently organized a number of high-profile and action-oriented events, including the World Summit of Religious Leaders and the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.

In conclusion, we welcome the draft presidential statement to be adopted later in today's meeting. It is aimed at developing counter-terrorism cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations. Azerbaijan will continue to contribute to that work through international cooperation based on strict adherence to the norms and principles of international law.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): Let me join others in thanking Her Excellency Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, for organizing this important debate and for her commendable statement. I also welcome the statement made by the Secretary-General.

Rwanda reiterates its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace, security and development. Terrorism violates not only the Charter of the United Nations but also the principles and values of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

My Government has ratified the 14 universal instruments against international terrorism, as elaborated within the framework of the United Nations system, relating to specific terrorist activities ar ! has also embraced the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, together with its plan of action. My country has also ratified the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism of the former Organization of African Unity.

My delegation commends and encourages the efforts and activities undertaken by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and its relevant bodies and agencies in the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to address the threats to international peace and security caused by extremism, violence and terrorism.

We also commend the African Union, which, in an effort to translate the commitment of its members into concrete actions, established in 2004 the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, headquartered in Algiers. The main objective of the Centre is to strengthen cooperation among African countries, to prevent and combat terrorism and to assist in the full implementation of international conventions relating to terrorism. In that respect, Rwanda expresses its continued engagement with international and regional partners, both bilateral and multilateral, in order to contribute to an enhanced coordination of international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

Rwanda firmly believes that effective and prevention-focused counter-terrorism measures require adequate national legal and institutional frameworks, including a strong criminal justice element that is rooted in the core principles of the rule of law, due process and respect for human rights. In that respect, Rwanda

has implemented, through a legal and institutional framework, the recommendations of resolution 1373 (2001), including the establishment of a national counter-terrorism committee with a national focal point, comprising members of the different national security organs, and a functional counter-terrorism unit within the Rwanda National Police.

Our country has also adopted legislation on the prevention and penalization of money laundering and the financing of terrorism. That led to the establishment of the Financial Investigation Unit, as part of the Rwanda National Police, which operates within the National Bank of Rwanda. Rwanda is also a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization. Both those organizations were inspired by the Organization of African Unity's 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and are in line with the spirit of resolution 1373 (2001).

In a Security Council open debate on counter-terrorism such as today's, it is important for Rwanda to condemn acts of terrorism around the world. We are particularly concerned about the scourge of terrorism in Africa, which could spread across the continent if we do not combat it. We condemn Al- Shaabab in Somalia, Ansar Dine and other Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb-affiliated organizations in Mali and North Africa, Boko Haram in Nigeria and other terrorist organizations on the continent.

Terrorists are the enemy of peace and stability. Unfortunately, the conflicts and situations of statelessness in a number of countries in Africa provide a fresh breeding ground for terrorism. It is not a coincidence that terrorists regularly attack peacekeepers and threaten countries that contribute them. Therefore, resolving conflicts on the continent is an absolute priority, not only to bring peace and stability for the present but also to serve as a preventive measure against widespread terrorism on the continent.

Another preventive measure against terrorism is of course to address the root causes. Rwanda believes that there can be no justification whatsoever for terrorism. Nonetheless, we all know that poverty, unemployment, bad governance and injustice feed terrorism around the world. In that regard, terrorism in the Arab world is also a reminder that there is an urgent need for the international community to find a lasting solution to the longest conflict on the Council's agenda, namely, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

While regional and international efforts are making progress in the combat against terrorism and in the resolution of regional conflicts, attention should also be paid to terrorist organizations that change names and acronyms upon being classified as terrorists. They later masquerade as political organizations, yet have all the characteristics of terrorists. A case in point is the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are the product of the Armée pour la libération du Rwanda, which, upon being blacklisted as a terrorist movement, changed its name and acronym but retained all its terrorist characteristics.

I will conclude by expressing our sympathy to Pakistan, which, as Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said, is "one of the biggest victims of terrorism". In that connection, we particularly pay a symbolic tribute to Malala Yousafzai for her extraordinary courage. I also wish to pay tribute to those who continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of the victims and who speak out against terrorism, extremism and violence.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to thank the delegation of Pakistan for having convened this open debate. Our thanks also go to Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, for presiding over it. We are also grateful for the concept note that has been distributed in the annex to document S/2013/3. We appreciate the presence of the Secretary-General and thank him for his presentation.

From a national perspective, it could be maintained that terrorism is not an endemic evil in my country or, in more general terms, our Latin American region. However, from a broader perspective, we find in that phenomenon one of the greatest challenges that humanity faces. That is why we categorically reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its origin. There is simply no pretext to inflict on innocent persons the horrors, suffering and costs of that scourge. We believe that a terrorist act, wherever it occurs, such as the one that took place in your country, Mr. President, a few days ago, harms and causes offense to all the planet's inhabitants. That is also why we must take preventive actions and develop decisive and collective responses in the context of international cooperation.

The United Nations plays a fundamental role in that area. Besides the body of international conventions and their protocols designed to combat terrorism, since 2006 we have depended on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which we generally update every two years. Furthermore, the Council has placed itself at the forefront of mobilizing international cooperation against terrorism. It is unnecessary to list the numerous resolutions that refer directly or indirectly to this matter, or to the bodies established to that end.

As the Strategy expressly notes, the fight against terrorism is not limited to the realm of espionage, defence and security. It is equally or maybe even more important to address the causes conducive to the spread of terrorism, that motivate individuals or groups to use indiscriminate violence against innocent persons, or at least incite the use of violence and xenophobia. This encompasses a broad thematic agenda, ranging from the promotion of economic and social development to the strengthening of the institutions of democratic governance and the rule of law. It also entails addressing the sources of strong tension that reflect a background of ethnic, religious or ideological differences in the context of mobilizing the classical instruments of conflict prevention. This requires assigning a special role to the virtue of tolerance in the values that we wish to instil in each of our societies and at the international level. At the same time, we must take care to avoid using counter-terrorism measures as a pretext to violate the basic human rights of our respective populations.

Given the multidimensional character of this phenomenon, it is difficult to speak about a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism without mentioning the need to adopt the long-overdue comprehensive convention on terrorism as soon as possible. In weighing the added value of a comprehensive convention that would supplement existing instruments to counter international terrorism, we find merit, among other aspects, in the following.

First, a comprehensive convention would contribute to preventing impunity for those who commit acts of terrorism, which are currently one of the major threats to international peace and security; secondly, it would facilitate cooperation and mutual legal assistance among States to bring to justice those responsible for such acts; thirdly, it would offer a definition for terrorism, allowing for the universal criminalization of such despicable activity; and fourthly, it would fill existing gaps in the work of the Security Council, and in particular of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), and the measures applied by the sanctions committees.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the specific issue of the link between organized transnational crime and terrorism. This topic is briefly touched upon both in the concept note circulated by the delegation of Pakistan and in the draft presidential statement whose text we will approve this morning. The common aspect shared by some of the criminal cartels that operate in our own region with terrorist groups is the absolute disdain with which they treat human life. There is already abundant evidence that terrorist groups accede to criminal activities to finance their violent actions, but we can also foresee the day when criminal cartels accede to terrorist activities as part of their strategy of accumulating illicit wealth.

The need for a comprehensive and holistic approach to address this complex phenomenon, as suggested in the concept note, leads us to one final reflection on the imperative of achieving a greater level of coherence among the different efforts being undertaken by the United Nations to meet the challenge of terrorism. The creation of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in 2005 marked a step in the right direction, but one can question whether the goal of coherence is benefitted by the arguably excessive decentralization of the efforts of the Security Council to combat terrorism in its diverse subsidiary bodies, including those established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 1540 (2004).

We entertain the same doubts regarding the level of coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the various departments of the Secretariat that service the work of the General Assembly. This is neither the place nor the time to make specific proposals on how to achieve greater coherence within the United Nations system in the area of counter-terrorism, but we members of the Security Council should at least begin to discuss among ourselves whether there is enough internal coherence in the work entrusted to the aforementioned sanctions committees.

At any rate, we greatly value the work of the United Nations in combating terrorism in support of Member States, which ultimately share the main responsibility in facing this grave scourge.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank you, Mr. President, for Pakistan's leadership in hosting this debate. We know that Pakistan is on the front line of terrorism. The terrible attacks in Quetta, the Swat Valley and elsewhere in Pakistan in the past week have been a stark reminder of this. In the face of that violence, the example of Malala Yousafzai and her fellow students is inspirational. It must strengthen our determination to oppose terrorism and it must be our beacon.

Terrorism is still one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and therefore must remain a decisive focus for the Council. The threat is now more diffuse and decentralized, but the fact is that in the past few years some 12,000 people have been killed in terrorist attacks annually, and States and regions are still destabilized. The nature of the threat and the methods and strategies of terrorist groups are constantly evolving and presenting new risks. We are now engaged against terrorism's direct threat in Mali and the Sahel.

Of course, States' understanding of the most effective ways to tackle terrorism has also evolved. Evidence and experience are accumulating, enabling us to refine approaches and improve our effectiveness. We know that good intelligence, strong law enforcement and prosecutions are important, but we also know that they are not enough. We must also tackle the drivers of terrorism, the terrorist narrative and the processes of radicalization.

The Security Council shares a strong commitment against terrorism. That is very clear from all the comments that have been made today, so I will limit my comments to addressing two crucial elements of a comprehensive approach: effective prevention, and strengthened cooperation and coordination within and between States.

States have had considerable success in prosecuting terrorists and degrading major terrorist networks. That is certainly the case in Australia's own region of South-East Asia, where, for example, Indonesia has prosecuted more than 600 terrorists since the Bali bombings in 2002. However, that shared law enforcement success has also exposed a key challenge: prisons are, in many cases, a weak link in our counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorists continue to recruit and plan attacks from prison, and the reality is that many prisoners are now beginning to be released.

Effectively managing and rehabilitating extremist detainees is therefore increasingly important for prevention. Sharing best practices and developing common strategies for that is essential. The Global Counter-Terrorism Forum's work in that area has been highlighted today. Australia, Indonesia and other South-East Asian countries are using that work to develop regional approaches.

Terrorist organizations continue to recruit new members and sympathizers. To defeat terrorism, we must counter the forces that drive it. That means strengthening our societies to reject violent extremism. Approaches will vary depending upon circumstances, but some common elements include the following.

The first is ensuring inclusive communities where everyone has a voice and where everyone has access to education, with strong curriculums, and access to work. The world is experiencing a tremendous youth bulge. As China's Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai said this morning, the average age of terrorists is decreasing. Youth unemployment remains one of the greatest vulnerabilities in all regions and societies. We need to make urgent progress in engaging youth in our societies, most basically by generating jobs.

The second is promoting values that, when broadly subscribed, can help communities resist the terrorists' message. Those values include tolerance, understanding and dialogue within and between religions and cultures, as well as respect for diversity.

The third is strengthening the rule of law and ensuring fairness and equality before the law, so as to remove a potential grievance that is often exploited by terrorists.

Clearly, States need to be innovative in using modern communications to promote those values. The Internet provides a perfect medium for terrorists to recruit, propagate their ideology and secure financing. Research is showing that young people — those most susceptible to extremists' messaging — are more familiar with the terrorist narrative than they are with the positive counter-narrative. Governments need to drive the debate on the Internet and through social media to ensure that their positive messaging is heard above the extremists' messaging.

We must also continue to communicate the values of tolerance, understanding, equality and diversity at the international level. The Alliance of Civilizations

and interfaith dialogue, such as the regional dialogue we have had in South-East Asia for the past decade, are still crucial.

An effective, comprehensive approach to terrorism also demands strong collaboration and coordination nationally, regionally and globally.

Effective coordination at the national level requires systematic cooperation between law enforcement agencies and with other agencies that are better equipped to address the causes of terrorism, such as agencies for youth, culture, religion, education and community affairs. That means frequent communication about threats, operations and long-term objectives.

States also need to strengthen collaboration with regional networks. We have learned from experience with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation the real benefits of bringing together regional law-enforcement professionals for training in a dedicated facility. The Centre has trained more than 12,000 officers and, in the process, built understanding of the common challenges and diverse needs of the Asia-Pacific region, strengthened personal relationships that deliver cooperation across borders, and developed a sense of common purpose. We need more of those regional facilities in other regions. Australia is committed to working with others to achieve that.

At the global level, effective coordination among United Nations entities is necessary to promote a comprehensive approach. The appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator would enhance strategic and operational cohesion and should happen. As others have mentioned, more cooperation is needed globally to prevent the financing of terrorism. We also need to further mainstream the analysis of terrorism, its causes and measures to address it into the United Nations peace and security agenda, including the mandates of political missions and peacebuilding efforts.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that, as a newly elected member of the Security Council, Australia will continue to strongly support the Council's ongoing efforts to combat and prevent terrorism. As the threat continues to evolve, our strategies to counter it also need to improve. The Council's role will continue to be central in that regard. No matter how hard the task, we must be a step ahead.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for demonstrating your leadership and for convening this important debate on counter-terrorism. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his introductory briefing.

First of all, on behalf of my country, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to you, Mr. President, your country and the bereaved and distressed families who suffered from the hideous terrorist attacks in Quetta last week.

Over the past decade, the international community has made concerted and cooperative efforts and achieved progress in countering terrorism, such as significantly weakening Al-Qaida's core group in Afghanistan. However, terrorism continues to be a serious threat to international peace and security. Al-Qaida is still a source of security concern, as its regional affiliates continue to expand their influence in such regions as northern Mali and the southern Arabian peninsula. There is also the growing threat of home-grown terrorism. Moreover, terrorist organizations have now begun to build a nexus with other transnational criminal operations, such as drug trafficking, kidnapping, the illicit trade in arms and piracy. Terrorist organizations are becoming more sophisticated and constantly finding new ways to extend their reach through the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies. Furthermore, the fear that terrorists may acquire weapons of mass destruction lingers.

Terrorism can strike in any region and any country at any time. Individual States alone cannot cope with the scope, diversity and constant evolution of the terrorist threat. Effective counter-terrorism efforts require strong international cooperation in law enforcement, information-sharing and the suppression of terrorism financing. It is also crucial that Member States provide support to other States in capacity-building and technical assistance. Taking effective measures to tackle terrorism is impossible without strengthening the capacity and preparedness of all Member States. The United Nations has played central roles in leading international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in 2006, has provided a solid foundation for comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism activities by the international community. As stressed during its third review in the Assembly, last June, it is imperative that all Member States fully and faithfully implement the Strategy in an integrated manner.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, coordinating individual States' efforts, promoting their cooperation and contributing to the capacity-building of Member States.

We also acknowledge the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General in maintaining a consistent and results-driven United Nations approach to counterterrorism. We commend the improvement in international coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The recent establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and its active operation are also laudable. My Government supports the Secretary-General's recommendation, contained in his report last year, to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

We are of one mind that terrorism cannot be countered by military means or law enforcement alone, and that a comprehensive approach is the only way to deal with new manifestations of terrorism and to address the conditions conducive to its spread.

First, it is necessary to tackle socioeconomic and environmental conditions. We need to deal with the diffusion of violent extremism by marginalized groups. We need to solve unemployment problems and expand educational opportunities. Our concerted efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty eradication and sustainable development, as specified in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, would be a big step in the right direction. Furthermore, we need to strengthen dialogue, understanding and tolerance among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions.

Secondly, it is essential that the effort to combat terrorism be in accordance with obligations under international law and fundamental values such as the protection of human rights and the rule of law. We need to ensure that countering terrorism and protecting human rights are not contradictory, but complementary. Only then can we win the hearts and minds of those who are exposed to terrorism's lure.

Thirdly, it is imperative to deal with the new trend of using the Internet and social media to incite, recruit and finance terrorist movements. We need to deny a virtual safe haven for terrorists and prevent such misuse of cyberspace. We look forward to in-depth and constructive discussions on this matter at the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace, to be held in October.

Fourthly, halting the flow of terrorist financing is one of the fundamental measures to be taken. In that regard, we acknowledge the roles of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and related regional bodies. As a member of the FATF, my Government is active in global efforts to halt the financial flows that fuel terrorism. We have managed training courses and shared our own experience in establishing a financial intelligence unit with other Member States.

Last but not least, we would like to emphasize that the prevention of the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction is the top priority for international security in the twenty-first century. In March 2012, the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit produced the Seoul communiqué, which provides highly comprehensive and practical measures for the prevention of nuclear and radioactive terrorism. We encourage the full implementation of the commitments under the communiqué. It was with that imperative in mind that the Secretary-General convened the high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism, with a specific focus on strengthening the legal framework, in September 2012.

As the new Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Republic of Korea will work together with Member States to enhance global efforts to prevent the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. During our term, we plan to continuously strengthen the Committee and qualitatively assist Member States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

Through this open debate, I hope that we will improve our understanding of the terrorist threat and be reminded of the urgency of promoting cooperation in countering terrorism. The Republic of Korea stands ready to actively participate and cooperate in implementing our comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Pakistani presidency of the Security Council for organizing today's debate focused on the fight against terrorism.

I align my delegation with the statement to be made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union.

As Pakistan was the victim last week of several terrorist attacks, particularly in Quetta, which resulted in more than 100 deaths, I very much want to express France's solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. Those recent attacks are a sad reminder of the brutality and fanaticism of terrorists.

Terrorism has evolved, but it continues more than ever to be a serious threat to international peace and security. The international community must today confront a loose conglomeration of local organizations that claim to follow Al-Qaida and whose presence endangers the security and development of entire regions, especially in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa. We know that terrorist groups take advantage of regional weaknesses to create safe havens for themselves, which can become base camps from which to target neighbouring States or can become hotbeds of international terrorism. The emergence of such zones, where trafficking of all kinds fuels terrorism, represents a very concrete threat and can lead to putting the very existence of a State in danger.

In resolution 2085 (2012), the Council underlined the urgency of the situation in northern Mali, which is a threat to the Malian population and to the stability of the Sahel, of Africa and of the entire international community. As members know, since that resolution's adoption the threat has become clear, and France responded to the call from the Malian authorities for assistance in facing it.

The Council has not ceased to reaffirm that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. Resolution 1368 (2001), of 12 September 2001, already affirmed that. It is affirmed again in the draft presidential statement to be adopted later today. In confronting the threat, the international community must display unity and solidarity.

To fight terrorism in a comprehensive manner and to avoid the emergence of lawless areas conducive to the development of terrorism, it is essential that the international community commit to effectively implementing existing mechanisms and adopt long-term strategies.

First, the effective implementation of international instruments and the strengthening of international cooperation are essential to fight terrorism comprehensively. The United Nations has made possible the establishment of a legal framework in this area. The body of United Nations conventions and protocols define the universal obligations to fight terrorism, and we must continue to insist on their full implementation. The relevant Council resolutions have also established obligations in the matter, covering a wide range of issues that range from combating incitement to commit terrorist acts, and against financing such acts, to the use of sanctions.

Beyond the establishment of that legal framework, the United Nations has made possible stronger international cooperation, especially through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aims to coordinate existing mechanisms and to strengthen cooperation among States and organizations. That strengthened cooperation applies in several types of measures that enable the United Nations to take a comprehensive approach in the fight against terrorism, by addressing the causes — eliminating the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism — by helping States fight terrorism through building their capacity, and by putting in place measures to ensure respect for human rights in the anti-terrorist fight. Such efforts must be pursued.

Lastly, the fight against terrorism must be integrated into more comprehensive, long-term strategies. From that perspective, it is essential to put in place security policies to combat the fragility of States, which is often a factor in creating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. But those security policies must be accompanied by programmes to encourage development and good governance. It is therefore necessary for the international community to provide assistance designed to strengthen State governance and institutional capacity — for example, by establishing regional strategies. That is the approach employed by the European Union, whose strategy for the Sahel includes a security component and a development component.

Strengthening capacities and promoting the rule of law are two essential components for a long-term approach in the fight against terrorism. States threatened by the activity of terrorist groups should be able to benefit from political and operational cooperation among States, especially at the regional level. For instance, France is participating in the setting up of judicial anti-terrorism hubs in Mauritania and the Niger and encouraging training for judges, for it is essential that those States have the means to judge and sentence terrorists, while respecting human rights. While a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism

can sometimes require exceptional measures, it must also be part of a long-term strategy.

The President: I wish to advise all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with longer statements are requested to circulate the texts in writing and deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): We commend Pakistan for having convened this debate, which constitutes an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of strengthening a comprehensive approach to counter terrorism. Brazil joins previous speakers in expressing our condolences to you, Mr. President, to your country and to the Pakistani people on the terrible terrorist attacks that took place in Pakistan last week. We also thank the Secretary-General for his presentation.

Brazil has long supported international efforts on counter-terrorism. We have always condemned, and always will condemn, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In fact, repudiation of terrorism is a tenet enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution and serves as a guiding principle for our foreign policy.

As a multidimensional threat, terrorism must be addressed through a holistic approach that takes into consideration its underlying causes. Radicalism and violence often stem from long-standing social, political, economic and cultural exclusion, amid which a culture of intolerance may thrive. Development and inclusiveness are key tools to combat terrorism. Fully aware of the interdependence between peace, security and development, Brazil commends the approach contained in the Pakistani concept note (S/2013/3, annex) in that regard.

Brazil fully supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Its various pillars provide a comprehensive and integrated perspective on the root causes of terrorism. Tackling the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism is the best means of preventing the recurrence of this phenomenon in the long term.

As we have noted on a number of occasions, prevention is always the best policy. Focusing on preventive aspects means the promotion of democratic values, international cooperation for social and economic development, and political, ethnic and religious tolerance.

Countering terrorism should never justify disregard for basic individual rights and the rule of law. The fight against terrorism must be undertaken in compliance with international law and human rights law. Otherwise, the very legitimacy of our efforts would be at stake.

We encourage the Council to continue to reflect on ways to strengthen due process within the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. The work of the Ombudsperson has proved to be a valuable tool to increase fairness in the consideration of delisting requests.

Cooperation and capacity-building are essential tools in an effective strategy to fight terrorism. Many countries have the political will to implement the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council, but lack the necessary capacity to do so. Brazil is pleased to see capacity-building as a top priority for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee can also play a positive role in that regard by facilitating technical assistance to Member States. We commend the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for its efforts in organizing workshops and seminars in different regions and call for the continuation of that practice.

Brazil reiterates that there are no excuses for terrorist acts. We reaffirm our commitment to a coordinated and multidimensional response to the challenges posed by terrorism, based on a comprehensive view of this scourge. We remain convinced that cooperation and dialogue within the United Nations will enhance the tools at our disposal in the fight against this phenomenon. The Security Council has a duty not only to condemn acts of terrorism and work to prevent the spread terrorism, but also to do so coherently and universally, wherever and whenever international terrorism strikes.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Mootaz Khalil (Egypt): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC Group thanks Pakistan for its initiative in organizing this important debate. It allows us to reflect on the current approach taken by the United Nations to counter terrorism and address the challenges we all face in the fight against that global threat. The OIC Group reaffirms its full cooperation

with the United Nations and the international community in that regard.

We would like to thank Her Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan for presiding over the meeting and for her opening remarks. We would like also to convey the condolences of the Group to the people and the Government of Pakistan in connection with the terrorist attacks that took place in Quetta last Friday. In addition, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his participation and for his introductory statement.

At the outset, let me reiterate the position of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in condemning unequivocally all acts of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivation and objectives, and regardless of the nature of the perpetrators, be they individuals, groups or States.

The OIC believes that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an ongoing effort. It is a living document that should be updated regularly. We reaffirm the importance of the balanced implementation of the Strategy in all its aspects, in particular concerning conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; measures to prevent and combat terrorism; and capacity-building and respect for human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is very much aware of the fact that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The member States of the OIC have been the prime targets of terrorist acts. Despite its best intentions, the world community has yet to enhance its response in addressing this dangerous phenomenon. Applying the following principles could improve the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States to combat terrorism.

First, the evolving nature of terrorism makes effective regional and international cooperation indispensable in the combat against terrorism. There is a need to improve institutional cooperation between Member States and to enhance the efforts of the United Nations in that regard.

Secondly, the United Nations should stress that all terrorist acts should be combated within a single legal paradigm, so as to end the use of double standards in addressing this serious threat. Criminalizing all acts of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, should be accompanied by the pursuit of all perpetrators of terrorist acts under due process of law, be they individuals, groups or States. Criminalizing terrorist acts committed by State actors is as necessary as criminalizing acts committed by non-State actors. The United Nations should increase its efforts to combat terrorist acts committed by States and develop the necessary legal instruments to penalize State terrorism.

Thirdly, there is a need to adopt a comprehensive approach in criminalizing incitement to terrorism. Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), adopted in September 2005, was an important step in that regard. Yet all forms of incitement should be criminalized and prosecuted. Indirect incitement, which may take the form of racism, xenophobia or insulting religious beliefs and symbols, is a very insidious trigger for terrorism. It can be more dangerous than direct incitement. The United Nations should effectively address the dangers posed by racism, xenophobia and offences against religion, as such acts constitute a grave incitement to terrorism.

Fourthly, we cannot rely on security and legal measures alone to eradicate terrorism. The most effective way to combat terrorism is to eliminate its root causes. The international community should work collectively towards resolving existing protracted conflicts. It should recognize and fulfil the legitimate right of peoples to self-determination. The international community should also assist the efforts of all nations towards poverty eradication, equity, raising the standard of living and improving educational policies. That will undoubtedly contribute to removing the major root causes of terrorism. Furthermore, there is a need to intensify international cooperation, dialogue and understanding among cultures and civilizations to eliminate prejudice.

The OIC Group notes with deep concern the instances of intolerance, discrimination, profiling, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, religious hatred and violence against Muslims, as well as the denigration of their religion and its symbols, including the Koran and the Prophet — peace be upon him — that occur in many parts of the world. Such acts contravene international human rights norms. They are against the principle of the freedom of religion. They are against the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. They have implications that may result in serious threats to international peace and security. We acknowledge and respect the importance of the freedom of expression in promoting tolerance and understanding

among nations. We condone the freedom of expression that respects diversity and combats the myth of the clash of civilizations, not the one that is used to incite hatred or to target one specific religion or culture and that deepens ignorance and disregard towards the other.

The OIC Group reiterates as well the need to make a clear distinction between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. That distinction is duly observed in international law, international humanitarian law, in Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 46/51.

Before I conclude, I would like to add a few words in my national capacity.

Egypt has suffered throughout its recent history from the dangers of terrorism. We have always supported international and regional counter-terrorism efforts. Under the former regime, we resorted mainly to military and security means at the expense of other solutions. The policies that were adopted in the late 1980s and early 1990s had limited success. We came to realize the dangers of radical and extremist thinking, and therefore adopted innovative policies to address such ideologies. We embarked upon a programme that promoted teaching the true principles of Islam that are based on tolerance and moderation and that reject violence and extremism in order to review and redress radical ideologies. Al-Azhar University, the main centre of Islamic thought for centuries, increased the training of religious leaders from Egypt and other countries on combating radicalization and extremism. The teachings exposed the fallacies of extremist ideologies that claim a religious foundation.

An effective response to terrorism came with the Egyptian Revolution in January 2011. It proved, in a practical way, that change can occur by peaceful means. It showed that people should not resort to terrorism to achieve political change. The fact that people may say no, stand up for their rights without violence and succeed in fulfilling their goals peacefully meant that there was no justification for terrorism. The fact that Islamic political parties that believe in democracy and resort to the ballot box can actually reach power through such means serves to expose the lies of criminal groups that claim an unfounded religious justification for their crimes. That has been one major contribution to international peace and security brought about by the Egyptian revolution. The real defeat of extremist terrorist ideologies did not occur by security means or by the force of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. It happened in Tahrir Square with the success of the revolution in institutionalizing peaceful change.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Senegal.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Senegal, I would like to extend my country's deepest condolences to the Pakistan Government and people following the cowardly attacks endured in Pakistan last week. We would also like to commend and express our appreciation for the Pakistani delegation's wise and timely initiative to organize this open debate of the Security Council on the fight against international counter-terrorism, which continues to be of great concern to the international community. Without a doubt, international terrorism is a dangerous and complex phenomenon that requires a holistic approach in order to completely eradicate it, as is suggested by the topic of this debate.

By reiterating our firm condemnation of terrorist acts, whatever their motivation, my country is committed to acting in a concrete and concerted way to achieve results in our common objective in the fight against that scourge. Today, this is indeed an enterprise that really does require effective and sincere international collaboration and cooperation. International terrorism includes groups that ignore borders and that benefit from information and communication technologies to plan and commit their crimes.

Terrorism, without a doubt, is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, as well as to human life and dignity. The alarming frequency of terrorist attacks, despite the numerous and untiring efforts undertaken to combat them, show that additional work is necessary within the framework of international cooperation and coordination. Our work is more necessary than ever before. That is why we support all actions that will lead to greater mobilization and closer cooperation among members of the international community to combat terrorism.

In that regard, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2006, remains the most comprehensive reference framework in providing and effective response to this scourge. The Strategy reflects our commitment and willingness to act in a coherent and concerted fashion to achieve our common goal of eradicating this danger. In order for the Strategy to be

completely successful, the four pillars, because of their intrinsic importance as well as their interdependence, must be implemented impartially. In the same vein, implementing the Strategy is indispensable in order to improve cooperation and to make the fight against terrorism more effective, particularly with regard to an exchange of information and experiences. What we need, therefore, is an effective global approach to terrorism that should, by definition, be based on the comprehensive and balanced implementaton of the Strategy.

Likewise, by establishing a raft of obligations and measures that States Members of the United Nations must adopt to crack down on terrorist acts, resolution 1373 (2001), which established the Counter-Terrorism Committee, offers a framework of action to prevent and act effectively against terrorist acts. The visits of the Committee to various countries have provided the opportunity to review the concrete steps that States have taken to implement the resolution.

As for my country, Senegal, in addition to the establishment of a centre for strategic guidance, we have undertaken enormous efforts to address the challenges posed by border control, airline security and maritime safety, among other things, not to mention the legislative reforms that we have undertaken to adapt our domestic legislation to the pertinent provisions of international law. We have also engaged in dynamic cooperation at the bilateral, subregional and international levels. In that respect, the situation currently prevailing in the Sahel, in particular in norther Mali is a source of grave concern. That crisis, largely fuelled by arms and drug trafficking, is further proof that our fight against the tragedy of extremism and terrorism is far from over. In that regard, we welcome the adoption by the Council of resolution 2085 (2012), which provides the necessary international legality and legitimacy to the action undertaken by the countries of the south-west African region, which are more than ever determined to help Mali to dismantle these terrorist groups and regain its territorial integrity.

The Organization's global approach to the fight against terrorism cannot succeed without effective coordination. In that respect, we support the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, which will allow the Organization not only to rationalize its counter-terrorism action, but also to strengthen its visibility and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the adoption of a global convention on international terrorism would offer considerable benefits in strengthening the legal framework of our fight against the scourge. However, we recognize that the international community must be more politically resolved to overcome the differences and difficulties that impede a speedy and consensual finalization of the draft global counter-terrorism convention.

In conclusion, my delegation, like others here, looks forward to enjoying a world that is free of all forms of terrorism, thanks to our joint efforts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein strongly condemns all forms of terrorism and reaffirms its commitment to contributing to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies. We welcome initiatives to make the United Nations counter-terrorism work more effective, and share the view that a comprehensive and holistic approach is the only way to tackle terrorism in a sustainable manner. Indeed, the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is based on that notion, and we agree that there is a need to implement all of its four pillars evenly. In the interest of time, I will address only a few subtopics of the Strategy in my statement today.

Effective action to counter the financing of terrorism is a key tool for weakening the operational capabilities of terrorists. It is a top priority of Liechtenstein's overall commitment to ensuring that its financial centre is not abused for any type of criminal activity. The key to success in that area is strong domestic legislation requiring all financial intermediaries to exercise due diligence, backed up by Government institutions — such as financial intelligence units — with the necessary resources and capabilities to follow up reported suspicious transactions. In its 12 years of existence, the Liechtenstein financial intelligence unit has been the backbone of our domestic effort in that regard, in cooperation with its international partners. Furthermore, the Liechtenstein unit continues to assist other countries in establishing and training their financial intelligence units, recognizing that capacity-building is key to our global effort to curb the financing of terrorism.

Despite the comprehensive nature of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, police and military action is frequently at the forefront of the response to terrorism. Such action is often undertaken in extreme circumstances and on the basis of sweeping anti-terrorism legislation. Indeed, it is the duty of every State to protect its residents from indiscriminate violent attacks.

At the same time, every effort must be made to ensure that a Government response to terrorism remains within the confines of applicable human rights law, as well as applicable rules of international humanitarian law. It can be difficult to determine exactly what that entails in a particular situation, especially as some applicable rules of international law are rather general in nature and require a Government's actions to be proportional to its goals and to balance competing rights and interests. However, some practices that are currently applied systematically are clearly ruled out by international law. The United Nations should do more to highlight such violations and share best practices in that regard.

Nevertheless, the main responsibility rests with individual Governments. They must ensure that the rule of law is not an afterthought to its counter-terrorism efforts, but rather its guiding light. Governments must also consider the extent to which extreme countermeasures may plant the seed of further terrorist violence or otherwise undermine the principles of rule of law and good governance. In that regard, we wish to commend the Security Council for its continued effort to strengthen fair and clear procedures for sanctions listings regarding the individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

The Council has come a long way in improving legal remedies for those who — rightly or wrongly — are affected by sanctions, in particular through the extensive mandate of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost. Now is the time for the Council to apply the lessons of that process to other sanctions regimes, and thereby underline its commitment to the rule of law.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the need to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as part of our comprehensive approach. In implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the various intergovernmental organs, Secretariat offices and expert groups dealing with counter-terrorism efforts have been successful, mainly because they have placed results and pragmatism above ideology. Who is to say that we will not one day be able to do the same in the negotiations on that overarching legal instrument? After more than a decade of negotiations, it is time to make a last push for a pragmatic solution — or otherwise to abandon the effort.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6900 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

6900th meeting
Tuesday, 15 January 2013, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Khar/Mr. Masood Khan	(Pakistan)
Members:	Argentina	Ms. Squeff
	Australia	Mr. Quinlan
	Azerbaijan	Mr. Huseynli
	China	Mr. Wei Zonglei
	France	Ms. Jaraud-Darnault
	Guatemala	Ms. Bolaños Pérez
	Luxembourg	Mr. Maes
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Lim Sang Beom
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zmeevsky
	Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
	Togo	Mr. Kandangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Wachtel

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism

Letter dated 1 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/3)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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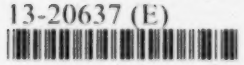

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The meeting was resumed at 3.10 p.m.

The President: I wish to advise all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes, in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously.

I now give the floor to Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We are grateful to Pakistan, as President of the Security Council, for organizing today's timely and important debate looking at counter-terrorism measures from a comprehensive perspective. I would like to thank you, Madam, for chairing this important meeting in person.

International terrorism poses a very significant threat to peace and security, as Pakistan only recently had to experience once again, sadly. I would like to express my heartfelt condolences on that terrible event. That is why the fight against international terrorism remains one of our highest priorities and should continue to be a priority for the United Nations. We are convinced that an integrated approach, combining prevention of terrorist threats and attacks with the response to them, is essential.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is central to the European Union and its member States in both their national efforts and their worldwide partnerships. In accordance with the relevant international legal framework as it evolves, we work hand in hand with the United Nations on implementing the Strategy, and we attach great importance to the its global counter-terrorism framework, which prescribes a holistic approach to tackling terrorism that includes not only law enforcement and other security measures but also respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Preventing terrorism by addressing and stopping terrorist radicalization and recruitment is a priority for the European Union and its member States. We agree that more emphasis must be placed on preventing terrorism by examining and addressing the conditions conducive to its spread. In order to achieve that goal, we must consider new approaches with a variety of tools and look beyond traditional actors at the governmental and law-enforcement levels, while engaging with, among others, civil society, social networks, journalists, women, youth organizations and media. In addition, assistance to victims of terrorism and their families should also be an element of counter-terrorism efforts. We believe that victims and their associations can contribute to preventing terrorist radicalization and sending messages of non-violence and reconciliation.

Countering the financing of terrorism is a core component of the EU's strategy. As terrorists and their supporters constantly modify their ways to raise, move and gain access to funds, we must adapt instruments and measures to deprive them of the possibility of engaging in criminal activity. The EU has developed a range of measures aimed at cutting off terrorists' access to funding, and we are committed to the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). We contribute actively to the Task Force's work, as well as to the implementation of its recommendations in the European Union. In addition, we highlight the fact that the relevant United Nations resolutions and Council of Europe instruments play an important role in countering terrorist financing.

The active involvement of civil society is a key element in effectively countering terrorism and violent extremism. Non-governmental organizations represent a valuable resource in that context. With a view to safeguarding the integrity of non-governmental organizations against abuse by, for instance, terrorist networks, including in the field of terrorist financing, the sharing of relevant best practices among Member States and with civil society could be of great value and should be encouraged.

We take this opportunity to stress yet again that counter-terrorism measures can only be effective when consistent with a judicial approach and within the law. Counter-terrorism measures need to be carried out in full accord with fundamental democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.

In the framework of the pledges made at the General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law on 24 September 2012, the European Union pledged to develop operational guidance to ensure the

consideration of human rights and, where applicable, international humanitarian law in planning and implementing counter-terrorism assistance projects with third countries.

The European Union will continue to support the consolidation of State institutions, justice, police and customs in order to strengthen security and the rule of law with a view to reducing the threat from terrorism, kidnapping and cross-border criminal activity, such as the trafficking of drugs and human beings. It is therefore important to strengthen international cooperation and the criminal justice systems of United Nations Members in order to enable them to prosecute terrorist suspects effectively. In this context, the European Union welcomes the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum rule of law group and will actively take part in establishment of the institute for justice and the rule of law in Tunis.

Although the core of the action on counter-radicalization and recruitment is and should remain at the national level, regional and international cooperation is needed to help coordinate national policies and share good practice. In this context, we welcome the establishment of the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi.

We also take this opportunity to welcome, as other have done, the recent adoption of resolutions 2082 (2012) and 2083 (2012), introducing some important changes to the Al-Qaida and Afghanistan sanctions regimes, in particular extending the mandate of the Monitoring Team and the Ombudsperson in order to make their work more effective and transparent.

I would like to conclude my intervention by stressing that we have no doubt that no act of terrorism can be justified or sanctioned by any religion, belief, ideology or culture, and that none of these should be associated with terrorism. We must continue efforts to foster understanding among people of all cultures, religions and beliefs, and in this regard we stress our commitment to the aims and work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. As a counter to extremism and terrorism, we must stand firmly behind the values that unite us, underline the shared profound respect for people of all religions and beliefs, and discourage the language of prejudice, hatred and intolerance, as well as violence.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Hay (New Zealand): The theme of today's open debate is apposite. Comprehensive measures by States and the international community as a whole continue to be required if progress is to be made in reducing the threat posed by international terrorism. Terrorism is a complex and multidimensional challenge. Each State must of course adopt an approach suited to its individual needs and circumstances. One size does not fit all. Nevertheless, the enduring threat posed by international terrorism means that the prevention of terrorist acts must remain a key national security priority.

I will focus my comments on the approaches that New Zealand has taken domestically to reduce the risk of terrorist acts occurring by countering violent extremism at the grass roots.

While the threat from terrorism in New Zealand remains very low and levels of social cohesion are high, the Government remains vigilant to possible terrorist threats from disaffected or alienated members of the community. New Zealand's approach is based on a coordinated, whole-of-Government response at the national level, in close cooperation and consultation with the community.

Prevention lies at the heart of the operational ethos of the New Zealand Police in meeting this challenge. With this in mind, New Zealand has treated the threat from violent extremists as a social as well as a criminal issue. While we have strengthened our legal framework to criminalize involvement in terrorism, we have also developed innovative social approaches aimed at diverting young people from involvement in violent extremism at the earliest stage possible.

Community policing, tailored strategies for engaging minority and religious groups, a strong emphasis on inter-faith dialogue, and initiatives fostering community trust in the Police have all been effective tools for addressing and combating radicalisation and violent extremism. They have helped to keep New Zealand relatively unaffected by religious and ethnicity-related violent extremism. These efforts are deeply rooted in the philosophy of community policing and grounded in high levels of trust between society and the police. They also rely on accurate assessments regarding those communities most vulnerable to recruitment by extremists or to self-radicalization, as well as strong national and international partnerships.

New Zealand exercises zero tolerance for violence and other serious crime. When police become aware of individuals involved in low-level extremist activity, priority is given to using social support measures to divert them from any antisocial behaviour. Communities are engaged in a manner that addresses the underlying causes and ultimately reduces offending and victimization. Authorities also constructively engage communities in situations where no crime has been committed but where evidence exists that individuals may be vulnerable to terrorist recruitment. This strategy has met with considerable success in preventing terrorist acts at the earliest stage possible, while also maintaining excellent relationships with ethnic and religious communities upon whose cooperation and goodwill law enforcement efforts ultimately depend.

Given our own experience of the success of community policing, New Zealand is pleased to support a new programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the practical utilization of community policing in countering violent extremism. Beginning in 2013, the programme will seek to enhance the capacity of police officers in South and South-East Asia to recognize possible indications of violent extremism at an early stage and to strengthen the emphasis on developing cultural understanding and human rights-compliant practices in detecting and addressing it.

This initiative is one of the ways in which New Zealand has sought to draw on its own domestic experience to support our regional and international partners in their efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue to partner with United Nations counter-terrorism entities, including in areas such as preventing terrorist financing and by strengthening criminal justice and law enforcement capacities and cooperation.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Abdullah (Malaysia): First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you, Madam, and Pakistan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I wish to welcome you back to New York to attend to this open debate on a subject that is truly important to all Member States, especially Pakistan, which witnessed horrific terrorist attacks last week. Our condolences go to the families of the victims.

At this juncture, I wish to align my statement with that to be delivered by the representatives of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Like all nations represented here today, Malaysia hopes to see a world free from terrorism. In order for that day to become a reality, terrorism must be addressed and countered in all its hideous forms and manifestations, as well as at all levels. Therefore, Malaysia cannot agree enough that terrorism must be countered in a comprehensive manner.

In the wake of 11 September, 2001 and subsequent terrorist attacks across the world, the international community reinvigorated its resolve and efforts to counter terrorism. The international community introduced innovative measures to target the financing of terrorism. However, as demonstrated by terrorist attacks and bombings thereafter, only minimal sums are required to cause disproportional harm to people. Furthermore, terrorists have managed to leverage lower-risk, higher-margin sources of revenue through kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom. Thus, measures to curb the financing of terrorism have managed to achieve only qualified success. In fact, despite all the outreach and capacity-building programmes proffered, despite enforcement and legislative measures that have led to countless prosecutions around the world, and despite resorting to the use of armed force, we continue to face this deadly scourge, which shows no sign of abating.

Our efforts to prevent individuals or groups that are intent on committing terrorist attacks from slipping through the cracks are simply not enough. In reality, if we are sincere in eradicating terrorism, we must nip the problem in the bud. For one thing, there is a need to undertake inclusive political and economic development efforts that address social and economic needs. In short, we need to win the hearts and minds of the people to counter terrorism effectively.

Malaysia also strongly believes in the need to maintain human rights standards when countering terrorism, which is why Malaysia repealed the Internal Security Act of 1960 last year and introduced the Security Offences Act of 2012. That decision demonstrates that, while the Government remains committed to ensuring that security is constantly safeguarded, the rights of the people also need to be upheld.

It is also equally, if not more, important to make efforts to resolve conflicts and repression. Those living under occupation must be accorded their most fundamental right to life and liberty with dignity and hope. The failure to acknowledge and take measures to address that is simply to turn a blind eye to a fundamental cause of terrorism.

Malaysia is supportive of interfaith and intercivilizational initiatives such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Without a doubt, such initiatives promote greater understanding among all religions and civilizations in the world. However, while greater interaction and understanding is pivotal in building trust, we believe that the real problem that exists today is not between peoples of different faiths and cultures. Rather, it is between moderates and extremists of all faiths and cultures. It is due to that that Malaysia calls for the establishment of a Global Movement of Moderates. That is essentially a call on the majority of moderate people, who have remained relatively silent despite being appalled by the despicable acts of extremists and terrorists, to drown out the voices of extremism. Malaysia believes that moderates must be the only dominant voice to occupy the mainstream. That would strongly contribute to our effort to eradicate terrorism. Likewise, moderation is also the best response in countering incitement to violence and extremism. We must not let extreme voices dominate world headlines and instil fear in the peoples of the world, but must speak out to ensure that the voices of moderation prevail.

Overcoming terrorism requires clear thinking based on an objective assessment of the situation. It also requires comprehensive action based on common effort. Certainly, there will remain places and issues that provide a wellspring of support for terrorism. We must therefore constantly remain vigilant. But let us not overstate the case of the dangers posed by terrorism, nor underestimate the length and breadth of the challenge. Let us take on the threat head-on so that we may usher in a renewed period of global peace and prosperity for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Çevik (Turkey): Let me start by joining other delegations in congratulating Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. We are pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over today's meeting.

It is noteworthy that the Security Council has devoted its first open debate in the year 2013 to the issue of terrorism. That reflects not only an expression of determination on the part of the Security Council to counter the scourge of terrorism, but also underlines the continued threat that terrorism poses for all of us.

Terrorist attacks are being perpetrated around the world on an almost daily basis, claiming the lives of innocent civilians. Recent months have been no exception. Due to unabated terrorist acts, many people have been killed or wounded in different parts of the world, causing immense pain and suffering to the families of the victims, their nations and humankind as a whole.

Most recently, we learned with deep sorrow and concern that three different terrorist attacks had taken place in Pakistan, killing or injuring scores of people. We strongly condemn all kinds of terrorist acts, convey our condolences to the grieving families and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. We also would like to express our solidarity with all victims of terrorism around the world.

Numerous social, economic, political and other factors exist that engender the conditions that terrorist organizations exploit for recruitment and support. Since it is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, countering terrorism can be effective only if efforts and measures address a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from international cooperation to national action. In that sense, we need to redouble our efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination, both at the United Nations and among Member States, as well as at the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. For that very reason, we consider today's debate extremely useful and we look forward to its outcome in an effort to contributing to a comprehensive approach to countering terrorism.

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose serious threats and impediments to global security, stability and prosperity. In the face of increased efforts to counter terrorism, terrorists simply change their methods and means, adapting themselves to circumstances while in most instances abusing legislative and implementation loopholes. The threat perceptions and national interests of Member States may vary, but we should make no mistake: no country is immune from terrorism, and we cannot win this fight unless we join hands and hearts.

We cannot counter terrorism solely through law-enforcement measures. We have to preserve the critical balance between security requirements, on the one hand, and democratic freedoms and basic human rights, on the other. However, while protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, acts of incitement to terrorism, violence, racial or ethnic hatred and discrimination, or glorifying such acts, should not be tolerated. We have to bear in mind that no counter-terrorism strategy, regardless of how successful on its own merits, can lead to tangible results in the absence of international cooperation and true support from other nations.

The lack of capacity, in particular the lack of expertise and resources, constitutes the greatest challenge for many countries. Enhancing capacity-building and law enforcement in all Member States requires specific attention. Cooperation at the regional and subregional levels is particularly significant to countering terrorism. In that context, it is important to build new partnerships, enhance institutional capacities and develop cooperative networks. That will have an enduring impact on our collective efforts. The effective implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and of Security Council resolutions remains essential to succeed in our endeavour to combat terrorism. In that regard, it is also crucial to create public awareness about United Nations resolutions.

The United Nations has been the linchpin in counter-terrorism efforts. Through the adoption of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly created a sound framework in which to fight this challenge. Today, Turkey strongly supports the promotion and implementation of the Strategy at the global level.

We are of the opinion that continuing international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, can help to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism, and will contribute to strengthening the international fight against terrorism. In that respect, the Alliance of Civilizations, which was launched by Turkey and Spain under the auspices of the Secretary-General, aims to facilitate harmony and dialogue by emphasizing the common values of different cultures and religions.

Before I conclude, I would like to emphasize Turkey's full commitment in this regard. Turkey, as a victim of terrorism and staunch ally of counter-terrorism initiatives, shall continue its efforts at all levels, with the aim of mitigating the effects of terrorist acts and eradicating the scourge of terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to welcome the presence of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan during the morning part of this meeting. We are grateful to the sisterly State of Pakistan for the initiative to convene and preside over this important debate devoted to a discussion of the issue of counter-terrorism efforts Terrorism is a scourge that all Member States have pledged to eliminate. I would also like to thank the Permanent Mission of Pakistan for the concept note circulated in connection with this meeting (S/2012/3, annex).

I take this opportunity to express the deepest condolences of my Government to the Government and people of Pakistan in connection with the act of terrorism carried out in Quetta, which claimed dozens of innocent lives. We extend our sympathy to Pakistan's Government and people based on a principled belief in the need to combat all aspects of terrorism collectively and comprehensively and from the painful reality that just today struck the University of Aleppo, where a cowardly terrorist attack targeting university students as they sat for their mid-term examinations killed 82 and wounded 162 others.

We have always said that the terrorist armed groups in my country are taking advantage of Security Council meetings to perpetrate acts of terrorism inside Syria. That is exactly what happened today, perhaps for the tenth or twentieth time since the crisis in my country began.

The President quite rightly chose "Comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism" as the theme for our meeting. We fully share and endorse the merit of that choice, as today we are in greater need than ever of such a comprehensive approach to combating terrorism. There are broad similarities between the tools and techniques that continue to be used by terrorists in many Member States and those seen today in Syria. The question is one of how many of the trans-border foreign terrorists currently active in Syria played a role earlier in the killing and injuring of civilians in other countries. How many of the terrorists at work in Syria today will move

on to other areas in the future, just as happened in the recent past and, indeed, as is happening today?

Anyone who believes that they are able to let the terrorism genie out of the bottle and then manipulate it in such a way as to make it go back in is misguided and deluded. Those who toy with terrorism will one day fall victim to it.

Despite the late international recognition of the existence of armed terrorist groups, some of which are affiliated with Al-Qaida and are committing the most horrific crimes in Syria, some States still continue to pursue policies of public support for such terrorist organizations by providing financing, weapons, training and safe haven and by issuing fatwahs and offering them political and media support. Today, I will give a practical example of such media coverage.

Armed terrorist groups attacked the homes and dormitories of Syrian army units in the southern Syrian city of Dar'a, where only women and children were present. Those armed groups perpetrated a terrorist attack, killing, wounding and humiliating whomever they could. In that connection, it is important to note the ironic fact that the Arabiya television network, which is considered the operations room directing such terrorist actions, actually broadcast news of the terrorist act before it had even been carried out, considering it as a blow by the terrorist groups inside Syria against the regime. That is what we mean by media coverage and support to terrorist and armed groups within Syria.

Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist organizations publicly claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Syria in response to orders issued by leaders of the Al-Qaida organization. Among those organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida is Jebhat Al-Nusra, which has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks in Syria. The American news channel CNN — not Syrian television — recently confirmed, in cooperation with many specialized Western think-tanks, that Jebhat Al-Nusra was solely responsible for more than 600 terrorist attacks in Syria over the past two years.

We have repeatedly warned the Council and called on it to apply a greater measure of logic and wisdom. We have issued warnings through hundreds of statements, meetings and official communications to the United Nations and its agencies throughout the crisis in Syria. We have warned of the dangers of terrorists flowing into Syria under subversive slogans such as "doctrinal and sectarian Jihad" and "holy war" against the diverse social fabric that characterizes the Syrian people. We have demanded that the countries supporting those terrorist groups stop doing so. We also called upon the Security Council, the General Assembly and the various counter-terrorism committees to assume their responsibilities in that regard.

However, countries with influence have prevented any concrete action to combat the acts of terrorism being carried out in Syria. Those influential countries in the Security Council have even prevented the Council from issuing seven statements to the press condemning terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent Syrians. Moreover, influential countries have blocked the issuing of a number of urgent letters that I sent on behalf of my Government to the Security Council and the Secretary-General, including a letter dated 21 November 2012 that included the names of 143 foreign terrorists killed in Syria. That letter has not yet been issued as an official document, although two months have passed since we made such a request and despite the fact that reports from the United Nations itself have recently indicated the presence of foreign fighters from more than 29 States inside Syria.

The terrorist activities being carried out by groups in Syria have reached dangerous levels in terms of both quantity and quality. Those groups have targeted vital facilities and infrastructure in several areas in order to bring about the comprehensive destruction of society and to exhaust the resources and undermine the livelihoods of citizens, including in terms of food, medicine, energy resources, petroleum derivatives, roads and transporation and means of communications. Not one single Syrian is convinced that the actions of these armed groups — supported by black petro-dollars, huge amounts of hatred and a lack of patriotism, and aimed at imposing hunger on the citizens, depriving them of their homes and security, leaving them in the cold suffering from disease, and pushing them into refugee camps — represent a Spring revolution aimed at serving them and at establishing reform and freedom. How can we explain why these terrorist groups target international humanitarian aid provided by the United Nations and other agencies, assassinate Syrian volunteers of the Red Crescent Society, and make threats against international workers and diplomatic missions accredited in Syria? What is the humanitarian significance of targeting civilian aircrafts? It is certain that the goal of the blind, vindictive terrorism practiced in Syria is to destroy the State and society, and not to

spread democracy, reform governance mechanisms, protect and promote human rights or combat corruption, all of which are popular demands in Syria and enjoy consensus among the various sectors of Syrian society.

The suspect goals of some countries in supporting terrorism and extremism in my country have started to rise to the surface. We now see Israel pointing to certain extremist terrorist groups as justification for building a wall along the disengagement ceasefire line that would be 42 kilometers long in the buffer zone on the territories of the occupied Syrian Golan. Any political novice would wonder about a party that has supported the actions of these terrorists, enabling them to reach that zone to begin with, and that has helped to establish such a movement and is dictating conditions for it. That is particularly true since high level officials at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have ignored the documented information that we provided on the facilities that Israel, the occupying Power in the Golan, is offering to these terrorists.

Is not the first suspect in any crime usually the person who stands to profit from the crime? We are witnessing targeted terrorism wearing the mask of those merchandising in religion and media, and embodied in the takfiri jihadist extremist fatwas issued by fake clerics on satellite television channels that promote ignorance and terrorism. The mass incitement of terrorism and so-called jihad in Syria and other Arab and Western countries that is rampant on the Internet, and especially on online social networks, must lead us to reflect carefully on the seriousness of United Nations efforts to address the use by terrorists of the Internet and its means of communication to spread their ideas and mislead innocent youth.

One wonders for whose sake certain Western nations have mounted the wave of demands for legitimate reform in the Arab world, diverting them and forging alliances with extremist Islamist organizations that, having come to power, remove their masks and start searching for bases in countries that have not yet known such organizations. In whose interest are prisoners and detainees from Al-Qaida smuggled from prisons and sent to Syria with the funding and support of well-known countries and parties such as Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and a specific political group in Lebanon? Between the dreams of an Islamist caliphate that some aspire to and the dreams of reviving the Ottoman Sultanate entertained by others, as well as the theory of creative chaos popular with a third party, nations are suffering, monuments are destroyed and wisdom is slaughtered on the altar of extremism.

The Turkish Government has exploited the suffering of the Syrian people to practice piracy and economic terrorism, in collusion with armed groups, represented in the theft of nearly 1,500 pharmaceutical and industrial facilities, their dismantlement and transhipment from the city of Aleppo to Turkey. Such criminal acts targeting Syrian livelihoods and means of development should be condemned in the same way we condemn acts of conventional terrorism that lead to immediate death and destruction. Such behaviour calls for a firm response from the Security Council, demanding that the Turkish Government return all stolen property to its Syrian owners and provide compensation to those affected. Just as the Turkish Prime Minister a few days ago called on what he described as "the imperialist States" to return the fortunes looted from Africa, he should call on his Government to return the material it looted from Syria and to end practices that harm the brotherly Turkish people and neighbourly relations between our two countries.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. Regional and international interference in our internal affairs has become rampant and shameless, and overlooks the violations committed by some States of the most basic principles upon which so-called international legitimacy is based. Furthermore, the exploitation of Syrian blood to carry out destructive evil terrorist political agendas has become flagrant. How can we move to combat terrorism in Mali while some States encourage, sponsor and arm the same brand of terrorism in my country, Syria?

In closing, I would like to express my regards to the representatives of the new members of the Security Council, Australia, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda and Luxembourg. I congratulate them on their membership in the Security Council and I wish them success and good luck in pushing forward the way this Council deals decisively with the issue of countering terrorism throughout the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Rahman (Bangladesh): Let me begin by joining other delegations in congratulating Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month. We thank the delegation of Pakistan for scheduling this very important open debate. This

initiative reflects the commitment and resolve of that country on the subject. I also thank the Secretary-General for his statement this morning.

Terrorism, both in its magnitude and diversity, is one of the gravest challenges of today. It is a threat not only to national security and stability, but also to international peace and security. Indeed, no country is immune from the scourge.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a watershed moment in the global fight against terrorism. We fully support the Strategy. Bangladesh made a humble contribution as the facilitator of General Assembly resolution 64/297, on the review of the Strategy in 2010. We call for the Strategy's transparent and comprehensive implementation.

Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Our Government has been following and will continue to follow a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and extremism. We feel that the four pillars of the Strategy and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to support its implementation were important steps. In line with our commitment to counter terrorism, we have taken some notable initiatives in our national context.

A party to all 14 universal anti-terrorism instruments, Bangladesh also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Our Government is currently implementing a national counter-radicalization strategy by promoting education, women's empowerment and the propagation of secular and moderate cultural values, and creating a mindset of tolerance, friendliness and compassion in line with our flagship resolution, "Culture of peace".

Our Government supports the work of the United Nations in the effective implementation of resolution 1267 (1999). We have banned all terrorist groups blacklisted by the Committee established pursuant to that resolution and are keeping a close eye on any suspicious activity. The Government enacted the country's first-ever Money-Laundering Prevention Act in 2009, which was updated in 2012 to make it more stringent and to include suspicious transactions and predicate offences as a way to address terrorist financing.

Bangladesh feels privileged to have partnered with the CTITF last year in presenting a regional workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in South Asia in Dhaka.

There should be a clear distinction between terrorism, on the one hand, and the legitimate struggle against foreign occupation and the right to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, on the other. Attempts to wrongfully associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group are unjustifiable and therefore should be avoided. It is essential that, while countering terrorism, human rights standards be respected and protected.

If the global strategy against terrorism is to succeed, its root causes — such as economic disparity and deprivation, political subjugation and exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, unfair treatment and absence of fairness — must be addressed, as appropriate. In that regard, socioeconomic interventions for the deprived in a society — such as social safety nets, microcredit-based livelihoods for women, women's empowerment, education and job creation, and a strong legal institutional regime — are of pivotal importance.

Let me emphasize that the United Nations should be leading the global conversation and action on counter-terrorism, with the support of all stakeholders. National capacity-building and the training of counter-terrorism personnel in developing countries, particularly the least developed, must remain high on the agenda of the United Nations for assisting all States in combating terrorism.

Let us today renew once again our vows to unite against terrorism and save innocent lives and protect succeeding generations from the unacceptable scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have the pleasure to speak today on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). At the outset, I would like to thank Pakistan for taking the initiative to organize this debate on counter-terrorism. I would also like to thank Foreign Minister Khar for her presence and for presiding over today's meeting. We hope that today's open debate will help us to direct the discussions at the United Nations and in the Security Council towards finding more effective measures for the global fight against terrorism, in accordance with the desires and expectations of the general membership of the United Nations.

Terrorism is a common threat faced by the entire international community. The NAM has always supported decisive combat against all forms of terrorism, wherever and whenever they occur, and believes that counter-terrorism efforts should be immune to any form of politicization or double standards. Otherwise, such efforts would be off-track, run counter to the original intent of the fight against terrorism, or even give rise to impunity for perpetrators. Counter-terrorism efforts should be based on international cooperation, with strengthened coordination and synergy, and the United Nations should play the central coordinating role.

Over the past few years, the Security Council has adopted a series of counter-terrorism resolutions, and the General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The latter document, with its three subsequent revisions, provides necessary guidance for international counter-terrorism cooperation. NAM calls for a transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the Strategy and agrees to actively engage in future meetings on its implementation. In that regard, NAM also calls for the enhanced engagement of Member States in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

We recall the third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held on 29 June 2012, where it was decided, inter alia, that the Task Force would interact with Member States on a quarterly basis, providing briefings and comprehensive reports on its current and future work, as well as a periodic workplan of its activities. In that way, transparency would be assured and Member States would be able to assess the work being done by the Task Force and offer policy guidance and feedback on Counter-Terrorism Strategy implementation efforts, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 66/282. We welcome the briefings held so far by the Task Force and hope that such interactions will help it streamline its activities in accordance with the wishes of the Member States. In that regard, we emphasize once again that counter-terrorism efforts should adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and fully respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

NAM is of the view that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism. We continue to condemn the use of State power to suppress peoples' exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and to struggle to dispel foreign occupation.

We note the recognized and growing potential links between international organized crime and the financing of terrorism, including money-laundering, and stress the need to promote cooperation and coordinate efforts in fighting those menaces. The financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern that must be fought with determination. In that regard, we strongly condemn criminal hostage-taking incidents that have led to demands for ransom and/or other political concessions by terrorist groups, and call upon all States to cooperate actively in addressing that issue in all its aspects, including its legal aspects.

It is the firm conviction of NAM that multilateral cooperation under United Nations auspices is the most effective means to combat international terrorism. NAM reiterates its call for an international summit conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations in order to formulate a joint, organized response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by identifying its root causes. It further reiterates the importance of the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism and, in this respect, notes the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on terrorism, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/210, for the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the continuing efforts to that end.

NAM has always underlined the important role of regional and international organizations in creating frameworks of cooperation and for the sharing of best practices in the fight against terrorism. In this regard, we support national, regional and international efforts and arrangements that seek to implement, where appropriate, the pertinent international legally binding instruments and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and regional arrangements and instruments relating to combating terrorism. We emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation with all States in this regard, and underline that such cooperation should be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the

relevant international conventions. In this context, we urge the relevant United Nations organs to promote ways and means to support and strengthen such cooperation.

Finally, the Movement believes that more steps are needed, along with the necessary political will of Member States, to improve the existing approaches, procedures and mechanisms of both the General Assembly and the Security Council in the fight against terrorism so that international measures to counter terrorism can be undertaken in a coordinated, transparent, accountable and consistent manner. In this way, the United Nations as a whole and the Security Council, in maintaining international peace and security, can deal more efficiently and effectively with the ever-more complicated and growing threat of terrorism. The Non-Aligned Movement stands ready to contribute to the achievement of this goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): I thank you, Sir, for the leadership of Pakistan in convening this open debate. This meeting today, which tackles the question of a comprehensive response to terrorism, is of the utmost importance because no country can stand alone in the face of terrorist attacks.

As a country that has suffered the devastating impact of terrorism, Indonesia fully recognizes the imperative need for concerted national counter-terrorism efforts to have a robust global counter-terrorism framework that is versatile and cooperative and addresses terrorism in a comprehensive manner so as to ensure that the results are sustainable. We hope that, through this initiative of Pakistan, the work of the United Nations, including through the Security Council, will lead to more effective steps in the global response to terrorism.

Before I continue, allow me to associate myself with the statements of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement, delivered by the representatives of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively.

Indonesia welcomes the third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which took place in June 2012. The four-pillar Strategy is a strong key for enhancing and coordinating international counter-terrorism efforts and assisting Member States in taking a similarly integrated approach. After the sixth year and third review of the Strategy, we still need to see the imperative to balance the implementation of the four pillars.

Indonesia therefore calls for an intensified engagement of Member States in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), as decided at the third review of the Strategy. Such an approach will enable countries to better follow and assess the work of the Task Force and provide guidance on its work, including by identifying elements of the main pillars that need strengthening.

The United Nations effort against terrorism has increased significantly through the involvement of various United Nations organs and their subsidiaries. With this positive trend in mind, Indonesia supports further deliberation of the idea of establishing the post of counter-terrorism coordinator to see how it fits with the need to boost synergy in the overall global counter-terrorism efforts.

We fully support the idea that the comprehensive counter-terrorism approach should be undertaken at both the policy and the implementation levels. Furthermore, it is essential that such a comprehensive approach be without prejudice to human rights and the rule of law.

At the national level, Indonesia has taken law enforcement measures and established several important legislative frameworks on counter-terrorism. Since the enactment of Law No. 15 in 2003 on countering terrorism, Indonesia has arrested and brought to justice over 600 terrorists. Of those, more than 400 have been convicted by the courts.

Building on its steady progress against terrorism, Indonesia has continued to strengthen its law enforcement institutions in order to enhance their capacity to deliver timely and effective results. Through the establishment of the Indonesian National Counter-Terrorism Agency in 2010, Indonesia is not only addressing the legal and technical aspects of counter-terrorism, but also engaging with the equally important social aspects.

Indonesia also welcomes the third ministerial meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), held in Abu Dhabi last year. That meeting stressed the need to do more on institutional capacity-building and the sharing of best practices. Together with Australia, as co-chairs of the Southeast Asia Capacity-Building Working Group of the GCTF,

Indonesia has convened two productive meetings of the Working Group in the past year. The most recent meeting, held in Manila, addressed the issue of youth radicalization and de-radicalization. It took stock of possible future activities to facilitate coordination on technical assistance programmes in Southeast Asia.

In a similar vein, Indonesia calls for stronger cooperation among counter-terrorism centres, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the CTITF, the Hedayah Center, and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Indonesia. I am delighted to inform the Council, as stated earlier by the representative of Australia, that JCLEC, which was established in 2004 through cooperation between Indonesia and Australia, has to date trained more than 10,000 law enforcement and counter-terrorism officials from 47 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Indonesia believes that, in order to prevent incitement to terrorism, it is essential that the root causes of terrorism be addressed. The nature of those root causes entail a need to promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding, as well as to empower moderates. We would further like to reiterate that terrorism must not be associated with any religion, culture or group. No religion or religious doctrine encourages or inspires acts of terrorism. None should be portrayed as such.

In that regard, the international community must work harder to reject the profiling of a particular group, religion or civilization. We must promote mutual tolerance, coexistence and respect for each other's cultures and faiths. To that end, we should all help to strengthen the practice of dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

Finally, Indonesia pledges its commitment to continue sharing experiences and thoughts on how counter-terrorism should be effectively carried out for the sake of our future.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Pakistan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I would also like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your leadership in convening this debate. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and informative presentation this morning.

In order to prevent and eliminate international terrorism, the enforcement of more comprehensive responses is crucial. It is necessary that not only the States where terrorism threats are real, but also the international community as a whole tackle international terrorism.

Although individual State circumstances with regard to terrorism conditions, counter-terrorism capacities and the available capacity for international contributions differ, each State should take actions as a responsible member of the international community.

What measures are available to States facing difficulty in raising resources and in enhancing capacity to take meaningful action? We believe that even those States can make efforts, such as by tackling outstanding socioeconomic issues that can promote extremism and by conducting dialogues with neighbouring countries and civil society. On the other hand, States that have been successful in achieving advanced results can share their experiences widely with other States to contribute to enhancing their capacity.

In addition to enhancing our own capacity, Japan has been conducting bilateral and multilateral dialogues and consultations. We have been making full use of our own know-how and lessons learned through such activities. We have also been making international contributions by dispatching experts and holding seminars, especially in South-East Asia, focusing on areas such as immigration control, aviation and maritime security, law enforcement cooperation and the counter-financing of terrorism. It is our firm belief that each State must embrace counter-terrorism as its own policy agenda if we are to succeed in implementing international counter-terrorism efforts.

Let me now touch on our ongoing effort to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. At the debate on the situation in Afghanistan in the Security Council last month (see S/PV.6896), we agreed on the importance of international cooperation with Afghanistan for the purpose of establishing its self-reliance and of not again allowing the conditions that spread terrorism. We can interpret such a commitment not to allow those conditions to continue any longer as an important part of our international counter-terrorism efforts. I believe that all Member States should participate in such efforts more actively.

In that regard, Japan hosted the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan last July in order to commit to international

efforts not to make Afghanistan a hotbed for terrorism again. We are conducting follow-up support. We have also been engaged for a long time in efforts to move closer to a final agreement in the Mindanao peace process, where a framework agreement was signed last October. In that way, we have contributed to several measures to eliminate the conditions that spread terrorism in several regions.

Since one of the priorities with regard to international counter-terrorism must be the issue of terrorist financing, it is necessary for the international community to make more efforts to address the issue. Japan welcomes the fact that a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on preventing and suppressing terrorist financing was held last November in order for all United Nations States Members and the relevant organizations to have an opportunity to engage and to exchange experiences and challenges. Japan is making positive progress, especially in its efforts to update the measures against terrorist financing discussed at the meeting.

January starts the beginning of a new year. In order to make 2013 truly meaningful in terms of international counter-terrorism, this open debate is a good opportunity to review past efforts and to reaffirm the international counter-terrorism objectives and measures in the future. I hope that today's debate may provide a springboard for all Member States to reaffirm the importance of a comprehensive approach and to take further positive steps on international counter-terrorism.

Japan will continue to take all possible measures in support of international counter-terrorism, as well as to cooperate positively in the efforts of the Security Council and the relevant United Nations entities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We would also like to express our appreciation to you for organizing today's meeting on this important subject.

Terrorism today constitutes the most pressing challenge to international peace and security. It is a scourge that undermines peace, democracy and freedom and that endangers the foundations of democratic societies. It is a global threat that recognizes no border, nationality, ethnicity or religion. There is hardly any region of the world that has not been scarred by terrorism.

My own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for over two-and-a-half decades. Indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been wracked by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al-Qaida, Lashkar e Toiba, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, elements of the Taliban and others. Terrorism, extremism and radicalization continue to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

Over the years, the visible landscape of international terrorism has vastly changed. In our globalized world, terrorists are also globalized in their outreach and activities. They recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others and are waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community.

The veritable nexus of terrorists with transnational organized crime and drug and arms trafficking is now well established. Terrorist financing, illicit money laundering, drug trafficking, piracy and the illicit arms trade remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships. There is also the growing risk of weapons of mass destruction of different kinds falling into the hands of terrorists. The misuse of cyberspace and related technologies by terrorists and their supporters is also a matter of increasing concern.

India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No cause or grievance can justify taking recourse to terrorism. India has been at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and is part of all major initiatives against international terrorism, including the Financial Action Task Force.

I had the privilege to chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee during the past two years. We endeavoured to provide renewed momentum to global counter-terrorism efforts and to promote a culture of zero tolerance towards terrorism.

During that period, three special meetings of the Committee were held, with the participation of the wider United Nations membership and international, regional and subregional organizations. The Committee held a special meeting in New York in September 2011 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee, and at that meeting it unanimously endorsed

a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in its outcome document. The Committee organized another special meeting in New York last November that focused on prevention and suppression of terrorist financing, with the participation of expert bodies — the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), FATF-style regional bodies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The meeting was immensely helpful in putting a spotlight on the issue of terrorist financing, which lies at the heart of resolution 1373 (2001).

We fully support all efforts that strengthen international and regional cooperation and, most importantly, help ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We also support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner in all its four pillars. We believe that apart from law enforcement measures, the preventive aspect is equally important. Development, education, social integration, tolerance, the rule of law and respect for human rights are the integral components of such an approach.

The United Nations has played a seminal role in combating terrorism, facilitating technical assistance and capacity-building for Member States. Success in the fight against terrorism goes hand in hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and the exchange of information at the international, regional and subregional levels. A large number of terrorist plots can be neutralized by the sharing of information and effective international cooperation.

We have witnessed important progress at the international and regional levels, including the recently established Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. We will need a scaling-up of some of the concrete ideas emerging from those processes.

Despite the progress achieved so far, the efforts of the international community continue to face many challenges. Foremost is the need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succour and legitimacy. Progress under mutual legal assistance and extradition cases is still sketchy and is yet to be fully mainstreamed as part of regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. We need to strengthen enforcement efforts to destroy terrorists' safe havens, financial flows and support networks. The mechanisms that have been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community need to be augmented and made more effective.

India has long held the belief that the United Nations also needs to strengthen the normative framework for its counter-terrorism strategy through the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. I could not agree more with my friend Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, on his emphasis earlier today on the need for such a convention and the added value through its early adoption. I can only echo the Secretary-General's words earlier today that the time has come for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to be adopted.

The fight against terrorism has to be unrelenting and fought across all fronts. The international community cannot afford selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or in dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism is a Frankenstein monster. Resort to the use of terrorism as an instrument of State policy is short-sighted. Indeed, those who have taken recourse to it have invariably themselves suffered immensely from it, proving the age-old dictum that those who live by the sword will also perish by it.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important open debate on counter-terrorism.

There is a specific kind of ecosystem that creates terrorism. Terrorism is rooted in hatred, watered with instability and State support, and then planted in the next generation. Every roadside bombing, every suicide attack and every act of terrorism begins with words and thoughts of hatred. It begins with Al-Qaida websites that turn suicide bombers into jihadi celebrities. It begins with Hizbullah summer camps that use arts and crafts to glorify martyrdom and teach bomb-making skills to children. It begins with statements by Hamas leaders like Atallah Abu Al-Subh, who recently said on public Palestinian television, "The Jews are the most despicable and contemptible nation to crawl upon the face of the Earth". That is the poison that is being fed to people across the Middle East day after day.

So I want to take the opportunity of this debate to ask the simple question: How do we truly counter terrorism?

Yes, we must combat terrorists wherever they seek to strike. Yes, we must attack terrorist infrastructure and go after those who support and finance terrorism. However, true counter-terrorism must also begin by disrupting the ecosystem of extremism in which terror thrives. It means advancing education and teaching peace, not hatred, and mutual understanding, not martyrdom. It means speaking out against incitement and all forms of terrorism, even when it is politically inconvenient.

We are far, far away from that reality. In too many corners of the planet, extremists have had the tools to grow the next generation of terrorists. In this very Council, some States offer justification for certain terrorists while condemning others.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) all remain essential parts of the global effort to isolate terrorists and deny them the means to inflict harm. Israel appreciates the work of the United Nations counter-terrorism agencies. The United Nations has expanded its counter-terrorism efforts over the past decade — in particular by coordinating and facilitating technical assistance to Member States.

Israel is proud to be an active partner and donor in those efforts. We continue to share the knowledge and experience that come through years of combating terrorism. We remain committed to implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, and to that end, we recently submitted our periodic report, in accordance with resolution 1540 (2004). We also support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. All four pillars of the strategy must be treated as a whole.

Israel is working closely with many States and regional organizations to advance counter-terrorism cooperation in areas from aviation security to border protection to terrorist financing. Those activities reflect our fundamental belief that terrorism can effectively be confronted only through international cooperation. No State should stand alone in this effort.

It takes a network to beat a network. The challenges we face are growing as a result of an increasingly linked network of smuggling rings, transnational criminals and terrorists. Ayman Juma was recently indicted in a United States court for smuggling 85 tons of cocaine into the United States and for laundering $850 million for a Mexican drug cartel. He took a 14 per cent commission for his efforts on behalf of his bosses, the Hizbullah terrorist organization. Juma is one of many thousands of Hizbullah operatives in a network that spans from West Africa to the Middle East to Latin America to Europe. That global criminal network funds Hizbullah's terrorist activities and provides the logistical support to carry them out.

Make no mistake. There is a direct connection between powder cocaine smuggled from Latin America and the gunpowder of Hizbullah weaponry in Lebanon.

Criminals are not the only supporters of terrorists. Many States — including some in this Chamber — work hand in hand with them as well. Iran stands chief among those nations. Across the African continent, Iranian weaponry has become the tool of choice for some of the region's bloodiest insurgencies and terrorists.

In Gaza, Iran is funding, training and arming Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorists, giving them the capabilities to strike Israel's largest cities. Iran's politicians and military commanders boast about providing terrorists with that assistance. The head of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza said last November that "the entire world knows that Iran is the main source of our weapons".

Iran has also helped Hizbullah to build its arsenal to unprecedented levels in Lebanon, amassing 50,000 deadly missiles, in flagrant breach of resolution 1701 (2006). Those weapons can reach all of Israel and well beyond.

Hizbullah intentionally stores its weapons in civilian areas. Just last month, a large Hizbullah weapons-storage facility exploded in the Lebanese village of Tair Harfa, just 300 metres from a school. The people of Lebanon are more valuable to Hizbullah and Iran as human shields than as human beings.

We face the frightening possibility that Hizbullah could soon get its hands on Al-Assad's vast stockpiles of chemical weapons. The Council must act today, not tomorrow. We have a responsibility to prevent the world's most dangerous weapons from falling into the hands of the world's most dangerous actors.

The Council cannot turn a blind eye to those States that sponsor, support and arm terrorists. The international community must hold them accountable for the violence that they spread and the lives that they have taken.

We have adopted many, many resolutions in this Chamber in the global fight against terrorism. Our collective efforts cannot end there. The voices of the victims of terrorism call to us; they demand our united action.

We must take the words from the printed page and breathe life into them every day. We must be steadfast; we must be strong. We must, as Churchill said, seek "victory, however long and hard the road may be". We cannot rest until the evil ideologies that fuel terrorism become nothing more than relics of the past.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Laher (South Africa): We extend our appreciation to Pakistan for having convened this open debate on this very important global issue, which has an impact on international peace and security. It is a timely reflection and an added contribution to enhancing the visibility of the United Nations in the international campaign against terrorism.

My delegation continues to support the approach that places the United Nations at the centre of multilateral efforts to counter terrorism, as we are firm in our belief that no country can address this challenge on its own and that terrorism cannot be defeated by military means.

South Africa is of the view that international efforts aimed at countering terrorism should be comprehensive in addressing collateral concerns, including development. We have always maintained that the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be implemented in a balanced and integrated manner. The Strategy, as affirmed in the high-level Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation hosted by the Secretary-General in 2011, remains the most credible and relevant international mechanism that enjoys the widespread political support of all Member States to counter the scourge of terrorism globally.

In addition to the strides that have been made in preventing and combating terrorism, as well as measures to build States' capacity in that regard, a balanced approach would mean renewed efforts and commitment by the international community to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. There is an urgent need for the international community and the United Nations to step up efforts to resolve long-standing conflicts in accordance with international law and international human rights law, and to adopt strategies that limit political exclusion and reject socioeconomic marginalization.

A balanced approach to counter-terrorism efforts would imply that the international community remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives so as to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth as well as sustainable development and global prosperity for all. In the prevailing international economic and financial climate, the international community must reinforce development and social-inclusion agendas, especially on youth unemployment, as such efforts can contribute to the reduction of marginalization and to countering the potential appeal of extremism and recruitment by terrorists.

We concur with the Secretary-General's view that human rights protection should not be viewed as an obstacle to effectively countering terrorism, but as an essential element of any sustainable counter-terrorism strategy. The strengthening of the international legal architecture, the rule of law and the criminal justice system constitute the fundamental basis of our common approach to counter-terrorism. In that context, the promotion and protection of human rights for all is essential to all components of the Strategy. This approach is complementary and reinforcing.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should continue to play a leading role in examining the question of protecting human rights while countering terrorism. That area requires renewed attention given the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner regarding the erosion of respect for due-process guarantees, including those related to the Security Council's individual sanctions regimes and other practices that impede the right to a fair trial in the context of counter-terrorism.

In that regard, South Africa welcomes the enhancement of the Ombudsperson's mandate and the institutionalization of the sunset clause as a step towards due-process standards, and remains fully supportive of the work of that Office. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism complements all counter-terrorism efforts and must be fully supported. It contributes to an integrated and balanced approach by interacting with all the relevant stakeholders.

The joint initiatives of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force that are already under way should be further strengthened in order to synchronize and make effective the United Nations agenda to implement global counter-terrorism measures. Such an approach contributes substantively to the optimal use of resources and capacities. The international community must maintain its unity of purpose in the global fight against terrorism, upholding the centrality of the United Nations in the process. Duplicating United Nations initiatives or drawing focus and resources away from multilateral efforts should be avoided.

Additionally, countering the financing of terrorism is a key component of a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism. While that requires collective action by all States, it is also an area where there is a dire need for capacity-building among States. Against that background, we welcome the recent collaboration aimed at leveraging the expertise and the reach of United Nations structures and other regional and subregional bodies, so as to enhance States' ability to protect their financial systems from exploitation as sources or conduits for material and financial support for the perpetrators of terrorist acts.

The commendable counter-terrorism efforts of the international community should be carried out with due care, planning and foresight. We remain mindful of the fact that the lack of an appropriate response or of the political will to address longstanding and complex conflicts will have a negative impact on our collective efforts to root out terrorism. We have witnessed the unintended consequences of weapons proliferation in the Sahel, following actions by the international community in the subregion recently. That has given rise to the resurgence of terrorism networks, rendering the countries in the region unstable and more vulnerable to the threat of terrorism. Similar situations must be avoided in future.

It is important for the international community and the United Nations in particular to place emphasis on the root causes of terrorism as well as on those factors that contribute to the inflaming of passions and resentment, which promote incitement and the spread of this scourge in different parts of the world. Such a reflection would additionally indicate the necessity of addressing the political situation of people living under occupation and the need for political will to address long-standing conflicts.

Let me say in conclusion that in the action plan that we collectively adopted in 2006, we undertook to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would also address the current gaps in the international legal arena that might exist, while also encouraging Member States to become parties to existing international conventions and protocols. We believe that the adoption of a comprehensive convention should not be delayed any further.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. We wish you every success during your tenure.

Venezuela endorses the statement made earlier by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is firmly committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, no matter who engages in it and for whatever reason. In that context, we reiterate our categorical condemnation of the commission of acts of terrorism, given their negative impact on international peace and security and on human rights.

Venezuela has been at the vanguard of efforts to counter that terrible scourge, as demonstrated by the countless treaties and conventions that our country has adhered to as well as the many successful policies adopted by our Government.

Venezuela has approved a series of influential legal instruments that establish measures to control, prevent and oversee efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and money laundering. In May 2012 the Organic Law against Organized Crime and the Financing of Terrorism was enacted. Its objective is to prevent, investigate, prosecute, criminalize and punish crimes related to organized crime, with a particular emphasis on the financing terrorism.

Venezuela has joined all the initiatives taken within the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Consistent with the

Charter of the United Nations and international treaties and agreements, that important political instrument recognizes that efforts to counter that serious scourge is the primary responsibility of Member States. The Strategy likewise states that combating terrorism should be undertaken in the context of cooperation and governed by existing international and regional instruments and the norms of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. Venezuela endorses such a holistic approach.

Terrorism takes on many forms and manifestations, with State terrorism being among the most reprehensible. In that regard, it should be underscored that all States must strictly and unflaggingly comply with the international responsibilities they assume. Terrorism is practiced not only by non-State actors behind the scenes, but also by States who act in the full light of day. Some imperial Powers are engaged in State terrorism, and they justify doing so with arguments related to national security. State terrorism should be condemned because it is contrary to the principle of the sovereign equality of all nations, denies the rule of international law and is a mass violation of human rights.

The Palestinian case reveals the double standard of some countries in their so-called efforts to combat terrorism. Israel's military aggression as an occupying Power deprives the Palestinian people of their lives, their land, their freedom, their history, their identity and, most important, their dignity. The blockade, the acts of aggression and military threats against Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the construction of settlements in the West Bank by the occupying Power are contrary not only to international law and resolutions adopted by the United Nations, but they are also a concrete expression of State terrorism. The Security Council's silence and inaction in the face of such practices are deplorable.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy calls upon States to discourage groups from engaging in terrorism, to deny terrorists the means to carry out their activities, to urge them not to support terrorist groups and to respect human rights within the context of combating terrorism. Consistent with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the plan of action annexed to General Assembly resolution 60/288, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its request filed with the Government of the United States for the extradition of the well-known terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, for his direct responsibility in planning the bombing of the Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976. As will be recalled, that terrorist attack resulted in the deaths of 73 Cuban citizens, most of them athletes who had participated in a competition in the territory of Venezuela. The request for extradition by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Government has been repeatedly supported by the Non-Aligned Movement, as noted in paragraph 380 of the final document (NAM 2012/Doc.1/Rev.2) of the sixteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 26 to 31 August 2012.

Venezuela also emphasizes the importance of paragraph 382 of that document, in which Non-Aligned Movement leaders reject the protection provided by United States authorities to Raúl Díaz Peña, José Antonio Colina and Germán Rodolfo Valera, all Venezuelan citizens who have been accused, and indeed convicted, of terrorist acts in Venezuela against the diplomatic headquarters of Colombia and Spain in 2003. That conduct violates current international instruments and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly relating to measures to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In General Assembly resolution 60/288, of 8 September 2006, and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), of 28 September 2001, among others, States express their commitment to fully cooperate in combating this scourge with a view to locating, denying refuge to and bringing to justice through extradition and trial any person who is involved in the execution, financing or planning of acts of terrorism or offering refuge to such persons.

Allow me to conclude by saying that there is a need to act with transparency in combating terrorism, with a view to to maintaining international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Sarki (Nigeria): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month, as well as to thank it for choosing this important subject for today's debate.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered earlier by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned

Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, respectively.

The fight against terrorism, especially the Boko Haram menace, remains a very high priority for Nigeria. The complexity and evolving nature of the threat and the diversity of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism will require a comprehensive, multifaceted and sustainable response at the national, regional and global levels. Terrorists are exploiting instability in some parts of the world and taking advantage of new technologies, including using mobile telephones and the Internet to expand their networks, raise funds, recruit new members and propagate their ideals. The world must rise to the challenge.

Nigeria has taken certain measures aimed at effectively countering the Boko Haram menace and other terrorist-related threats in our country. The 2011 Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Money-laundering Prohibition Act of the same year were introduced not only to stem the tide, but also to neutralize terrorist threats in Nigeria. The laws establish measures for the prevention, prohibition and combating of terrorism, including terrorism funding. The terrorism prevention amendment bill of December 2012 strengthened the sanctions regime and the legal framework and provided useful tools for defending human rights while fighting the menace.

We also adopted a three-pronged counter-terrorism strategy that involves the following. First, it addresses social and economic grievances, promotes political and religious dialogue and enhances the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat all terrorist threats. Secondly, it restructures the banking sector and strengthens institutional bodies, including the office of the national coordinator for counter-terrorism and the national intelligence unit, as front-line agencies in combating terrorism. It also involves the signing of regional counter-terrorism treaties.

Against that background, in March, Nigeria will host a regional workshop of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in West Africa and the Sahel. That subregional project is expected to galvanize Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and other regional stakeholders to work in concert towards the attainment of the common objective of tackling the threat of terrorism. We are also a member of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, as well as the CTITF. We will work within those frameworks to reach the common objective of blunting the dangers and threats caused by terrorist movements and organizations.

It is evident that close cooperation is required among Member States as a prerequisite and effective strategy in tackling terrorism. The overarching challenge is to find ways to sustain international cooperation, despite the divergence in the perception of threat by various countries. My delegation recognizes the unique and invaluable contributions of the United Nations to the global efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism.

At the same time, we would like to highlight the nexus between terrorism and extremism, illiteracy, poverty, maladministration and human rights violations, and to emphasize that those factors should always be taken into consideration when formulating counter-terrorism strategies. My delegation therefore calls for the formulation and adoption of long-term strategies based on subregional, regional and international cooperation to support national measures and to assist individual Governments facing threats of terrorism to deal with the scourge effectively, while observing established best practices, including respect for fundamental human rights. We therefore believe that the fight against terrorism should, as much as possible, take into account the peculiar contexts and environments in which such struggles are being waged.

Nigeria will continue to collaborate with the United Nations with respect to the terrorist challenge in our country. In that regard, we will work with the relevant United Nations agencies and the Security Council to coordinate activities and ensure that, in the end, a successful campaign to eradicate extremism and terrorist violence is achieved.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): First of all, let me congratulate the Permanent Representative of Pakistan for his stewardship of the work of the Security Council for this month and to thank him for convening today's important meeting.

I take this opportunity to welcome Australia, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg and Rwanda as incoming members of the Council. I am confident that they will make significant contributions to its agenda.

Kazakhstan consistently advocates the strengthening of global security through the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to fight international terrorism.

No terrorist activity has any justification; nor is it tied to any nationality or religion. It does cause serious damage to international peace and security and to global sustainable development. Terrorism has a criminal undertaking. Behind the rhetoric of terrorist groups lies criminal activity that undermines the foundations of society.

We are convinced that no country in the world can sufficiently address contemporary challenges alone, especially terrorism. We therefore attach great value to the development of cooperation on counter-terrorism, and we support in practice all international and regional efforts in that direction.

We advocate the further implementation of the main provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the national and regional levels. A concrete step in that direction was the adoption of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Strategy in Central Asia, which took place in the city of Ashgabat in 2011. The Plan is the fruitful outcome of the joint efforts of countries of the region, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the European Union and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. In 2012, a consultative meeting was held in Almaty, with the support of the Government of my country, to discuss how to implement the Plan in conjunction with the major regional organizations.

Kazakhstan is an active participant in the anti-terrorist centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the regional anti-terrorist structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the efforts of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the fight against terrorism and extremism. My country is also undertaking counter-terrorism measures in accordance with its individual partnership action plan with NATO. In addition, it is currently engaged in ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the European Union.

The Astana Declaration on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted at a conference, reaffirmed the commitment of participating countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and State partners to the fight against the scourge of terrorism.

We support the international community's efforts to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. We attach great importance to international cooperation and to the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to avoid having them all into the hands of terrorists. My Government therefore organized a conference on the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, with special focus on countering the financing of terrorism, and held the first meeting of the Implementation and Assessment Group.

At the national level, within the framework of the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, adopted this year, we have started to develop a new State programme to combat religious extremism and terrorism, an important part of which will be devoted to regional and international cooperation, improving national antiterrorism legislation, including questions on providing assistance to victims of terrorist attacks, and preventing terrorism.

Terrorism, as experience proves, cannot be completely eliminated by methods of force alone. We therefore consider it necessary to promote sustainable economic development and education. We wish to promote the elimination, as far as possible, of preconditions for conflict situations in every region and to create new, reliable mechanisms for overcoming social, ethnic and religious tensions. In that context, my country intends to use the advantages of the interactive platform of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions to create a new platform for the resolution of conflicts on religious grounds.

A ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan will be held in Astana in April, with a view to developing concrete proposals for reducing the threat of terrorism to the region as a whole. We are confident that that forum will make an important contribution to the process of the political settlement, reconstruction and regional integration of Afghanistan.

We live in the age of the Internet and advanced technology, where the flow of information is enormous. It is regrettable that those new information capabilities are used by terrorist and extremist organizations to spread their destructive ideology. In that regard, we support the efforts of the Russian Federation and China to develop a mechanism for ensuring international information security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Before beginning my statement, I would like to congratulate Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January and to thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to speak.

(*spoke in English*)

I would like to thank Pakistan, as President of the Security Council, for initiating this debate on the need for a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. May I also express Canada's strong condemnation of the deadly attacks of 10 January in Pakistan, which have killed scores of innocent people. On behalf of all Canadians, we extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those killed.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada stresses the continuing obligation of every State to prevent terrorist groups from receiving training on their territory or crossing international borders to conduct terrorist operations in other States. That applies equally to the countries of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, to Iran, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, and Pakistan.

(*spoke in English*)

Canada recently added the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force to our list of terrorist entities, in response to their provision of arms, funding and paramilitary training to terrorist groups that include the Taliban, Lebanese Hizbullah, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command, and networks inside Iraq. Indeed, dubious networks thriving in ungoverned spaces, at the confluence of State and non-State actors, must be confronted for what they are, wherever they aspire to fulfil their hegemonic ambitions.

This debate is particularly timely in view of the destabilizing developments in Mali. Armed groups, including terrorist organizations listed by this body, are collaborating to control an increasing amount of territory, with disastrous humanitarian and human-dignity consequences for the people of Mali.

It is indisputable that terrorism is a global scourge that has targeted all our nations, undermining civilization and subverting popular sovereignty across the face of the Earth. We are compelled to work more closely together, united in purpose and coordinated in practice, to combat the radical sectarianism that manifests itself in the lives of the innocent through acts of unmitigated terror.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a valuable supporting mechanism for international cooperation against terrorism. The Strategy emphasizes our shared condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. It commits us to urgent and comprehensive action to prevent and combat terrorism around the world. Canada was very pleased to play a role in the Strategy's renewal during the last review period, and we look forward to further consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the establishment of the post of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as provided for in the Strategy renewal resolution (General Assembly resolution 66/282). We also continue to serve in our role as facilitator on behalf of the bureau of the annual General Assembly resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Canada launched its own national road map against terrorism last year. Our strategy aims to prevent individuals from engaging in terrorism, detect the activities of individuals who may pose a terrorist threat, deny terrorists the means and opportunity to carry out their activities and respond proportionately and rapidly to terrorist activities in order to mitigate their effects. Combating the financing of terrorism is a key aspect of our approach. Canada is a founding member of the Financial Action Task Force, the global leader in standard-setting for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Canada has worked hard to establish a robust domestic anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist-financing regime and continues to adjust it so as to fully implement the Task Force's international standards.

(*spoke in French*)

Helping to build the capacity of Member States to fight terrorism is another important part of our approach. Canada's counter-terrorism capacity-building programme provides significant training, equipment and technical and legal support, as well as assistance in matters of security, to help our partners prevent and respond to terrorist activities. In that context, Canada is pleased to be a founding member of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) and to co-chair its working group on the Sahel. The GCTF provides members

with an action-oriented forum to enable them to work together to identify gaps and mobilize the resources necessary to build States' capacity to combat terrorism.

(*spoke in English*)

Responding to the needs of victims is also crucial to Canada's overall approach to countering terrorism. Our recently adopted Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act provides victims with the means to seek justice by holding the perpetrators of terrorism and those who support them, including States, accountable for their actions. Respect for human rights and the rule of law frames Canada's entire approach and underpins each and every one of our counter-terrorism efforts.

The Council can rest assured that Canada is committed to building on our shared successes and contributing to our collective duty to combat the global terror threat in all its manifestations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Kafeero (Uganda): At the outset, I would like to convey Uganda's deep sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan following the recent terrorist attacks.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Pakistan on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I also thank you for organizing this important debate. We also thank the Secretary-General for his informative briefing this morning.

Terrorism is a global threat to international peace and security. This debate is an affirmation of the significance of the Security Council and of its important contribution to the global efforts to counter that threat. The indiscriminate and callous acts of terrorism around the world are a reminder of the vulnerability of all States.

On 11 July 2010, Uganda was the target of a cowardly attack by Al-Shabaab terrorists. That attack resulted in the deaths of 78 innocent people and the injury of 200 others. Uganda continues to face threats from that group and others, such as the Lord's Resistance Army and the Allied Democratic Forces which, like Al-Shabaab, is linked with Al-Qaida.

Uganda strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We reaffirm that all terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation or of who commits them.

Uganda strongly supports the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an effective framework in the fight against terrorism. Since 1998, the Government of Uganda has adopted several measures at the national, regional and international levels aimed at preventing and combating both local and international terrorism.

At the international level, we continue to support the full implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions, conventions and international agreements to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

At the regional level, Uganda has strengthened cooperation through frameworks such as the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union.

At the national level, Uganda adopted an anti-terrorism act in 2002 that established the legal framework within which counter-terrorism efforts are regulated. Uganda has also taken the necessary measures to prevent its territory from being used for cross-border terrorist acts. We have swiftly brought to justice persons or entities participating in terrorist acts, including prosecuting those involved in the July 2010 attacks in Kampala.

Uganda formulated and has been implementing a strategy of public awareness and sensitization through a police-led security education and training programme since 2007. Tenets of the programme include raising security awareness among the public to enable them to appreciate, cooperate with and support law enforcement agencies' efforts to ensure safety and security in their neighbourhoods. We continue to organize counter-terrorism dialogues with various communities, including in schools, shopping malls and faith-based organizations, whereby those communities are given a platform to discuss issues of concern, including terrorism. Our experience has shown that such meetings are very important in ensuring good community relations and acceptance by the public that law enforcement measures are appropriate and proportionate. Those counter terrorism efforts are conducted under an inter-agency body, which is important for the synergy of efforts, coordination,

creating team spirit and ensuring effective resource mobilization and utilization.

We have seen increasing levels of sophistication in terrorist networks through their ability to exploit the benefits of information and communication technology, such as social media, and linkages with transnational criminal networks to finance and promote their activities. The strong links between terrorism and such transnational organized crime as money laundering, human trafficking and drug trafficking have become a threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of some States.

Since terrorism and transnational criminal activities thrive on the same vulnerabilities and utilize similar actors, it is necessary for the United Nations to support the implementation of counter-terrorism measures that will sever the mutually reinforcing and symbiotic relationships that exist or may emerge.

Our collective efforts should aim at denying terrorists any safe haven, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing States' vulnerability and enhancing States' preparedness and response capabilities.

Priority attention in the fight against terrorism should be given to prevention. A comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism should support addressing fundamental vulnerabilities such as economic deprivation and weak State structures, in order to effectively deprive terrorists of safe havens and recruiting grounds and, in turn, strengthen the ability of States to effectively counter terrorist threats.

Our collective approach should also place emphasis to building national and regional capacity and facilitating cooperation among States. That requires an effective system to be put in place to provide technical assistance for capacity-building that is responsive to the needs of States. In that regard, it is essential to put greater emphasis on fostering better information-sharing, operational planning and initiatives that strengthen regional counter-terrorism capabilities and cooperation.

Closer cooperation between the United Nations and such regional and subregional organizations as the African Union, IGAD, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States in counter-terrorism activities is crucial. Such cooperation is an essential and a necessary approach towards more effective counter-terrorism measures.

Finally, countering terrorism goes beyond the individual abilities of any State. By working together, we can counter and combat those threats. I would like to reaffirm Uganda's resolve and support to contribute constructively to international efforts in the comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this open debate and for the opportunity it provides Armenia to present its views and reaffirm our united efforts to strengthen dialogue and mutual understanding among States, the United Nations and civil society in combating the scourge of terrorism.

Let me join previous speakers by expressing our deepest condolences to the Pakistani people with regard to the horrific acts of terrorism of last week, which claimed so many innocent lives.

The enormity of the threat of terrorism around the world and its implications necessitate a multilayered approach. Moreover, the strategy adopted to address the problem can only be implemented successfully with the coordinated action and support of various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, agencies and other intergovernmental organizations that deal with transnational crime.

At the national level, Armenia has developed effective multilateral cooperation over the past decade in the fight against transnational organized crime and international terrorism. We work closely with various international and regional partners, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and NATO, in such areas as legal reform, improving national law enforcement capacities, border control and intelligence systems. A network of bilateral agreements has also been established with many countries.

Unilaterally, we have adopted practical and effective border control measures and demonstrated our strong interest in acquiring the technology and equipment needed to further enhance the existing border security regime. However, closed borders with some of our neighbours discourage regional border security cooperation in this very sensitive geostrategic area.

Secure borders are particularly important in volatile regions such as the South Caucuses, where still-unresolved conflicts have become a convenient excuse for the accumulation of enormous amounts of weaponry, very often in violation of existing international treaties and instruments. Illicit flows of armaments, drugs, terrorist groups and terrorist activities remain a matter of concern in a very global sense.

Because of the transnational nature of the crime of terrorism and the lack of regional cooperation, we have to be vigilant not to allow the situation to be exploited again in our region by radical elements for the purposes of terrorist recruitment or provocation. Armenia also believes that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination. We condemn the use of State power and mercenaries to suppress the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination.

As we focus on a comprehensive approach to counter the scourge of terrorism, given the fact that conditions conducive to the spread of this international crime include, among other things, prolonged unresolved conflicts, we have to encourage public education and awareness-raising programmes in conflict-prone societies. The broadcast and dissimination of hate speech on a State level, which we sadly continue to witness in our neighbourhood, is a preludeto the incitement and ignition of terrorism. That behaviour has to be replaced by the promotion of tolerance and inclusive dialogue. Such engagement and confidence-building measures play a key role in the prevention of extremism and the radicalization of societies and are a way forward to advance long-term development and security goals, which we all are committed to achieving.

In conclusion, I cannot but agree with the statements of previous speakers that countering terrorism and violent extremism is a shared mission, and we have the tools and the political will to do that. The scope and magnitude of this assault require an even greater level of innovation and enhanced coordination of our joined efforts in this critical area.

I would also like to take this opportunity once again to congratulate the incoming members and to wish the Council a productive year ahead.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Afghanistan.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on Pakistan's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and by expressing our appreciation for the convening of today's important meeting to address an issue of special importance and relevance to my country, Afghanistan.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our condemnation of the terrorist attacks that took place in Quetta and the Swat Valley, which left more than 100 innocent people dead and many more wounded. Such horrific incidents reaffirm the fact that terrorism is still a formidable threat. That is why we all must redouble our efforts to defeat this menace.

My delegation is pleased to know that the Security Council continues to pay serious attention to the fight against terrorism. In May of last year, the Council held a high-level meeting on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (see S/PV.6765). The outcome of that meeting underscored the changing nature of the terrorist threat and the need for a strengthened global response in dealing with the problem (see S/PRST/2012/17). Today, more than ever before, the fight against terrorism is being conducted in a more results-oriented, balanced and integrated manner.

Afghanistan has lived with, and suffered from, terrorism for more than two decades. It was not too long ago when Afghanistan's territory was used by Al-Qaida and affiliate groups not only as a site for brutal attacks against the Afghan people, but as a staging ground for terrorist attacks around the world. Over the past 11 years, since the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has made important headway in its fight against terrorism and in transforming itself into a more peaceful, stable and democratic society.

Despite the progress made thus far, terrorism and insecurity remain serious challenges facing the Afghan people. The effects of terrorism resulting from attacks on innocent civilians, including women and men, tribal and religious elders, members of civil society and even young school children, are felt throughout Afghan society. Just last month, in another cowardly attack, a terrorist posing as a peace negotiator carried out a suicide bombing against our chief of intelligence, Mr. Asadullah Khalid. Gratefully, the assassination plot failed and Mr. Khalid is now recovering successfully. Such acts will in no way weaken the determination of Afghans to defeat terrorism and succeed in their journey towards peace and prosperity.

Our comprehensive counter-terrorism approach, which is central to our national security strategy, is being carried out by our national security institutions. At the operational level, scores of terrorists and enemy combatants have been captured and brought to justice. Through intelligence-gathering, we have subverted hundreds of terrorist plots in various parts of the country. Operating with increased capability, our security forces are increasingly taking charge of combat operations nationwide, including in counter-terrorism operations.

Insecurity and terrorism are not only a threat for Afghanistan, but for our wider region, which we hope will be dealt with fully and effectively within the framework of our joint efforts with regional partner countries. We therefore cannot overstate the importance of regional cooperation. Over the past year, we have stepped up efforts to defeat terrorism, improve security and ensure prosperity in our part of the world. To that end, we are making important progress through bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral mechanisms, as well as through regional efforts such as the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan. We have enhanced our cooperation with Pakistan in a number of areas, including counter-terrorism efforts, in order to bring about lasting peace, security and stability to both of our countries.

Consistent with our struggle against terrorism, we attach great importance to the body of legal instruments concerning this problem. Afghanistan is party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. In that regard, the relevant ministries and governmental agencies are working closely towards the implementation of national legislation. I would be remiss if I failed to commend the respective important work being done by the counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies of the Security Council — the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), concerning counter-terrorism; and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Afghanistan will continue to present national reports with regard to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The role of the United Nations lies at the core of an effective fight against terrorism. The third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, conducted last June in the General Assembly, marks another milestone in strengthening United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and has generated new impetus in the efforts of States against that global threat. Furthermore, we believe that greater synergy and coordination among the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies will enable the Organization to enhance cooperation as efficiently as possible, both internationally and regionally. In that regard, we look forward to further discussions on the topic of the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

We also commend the important work being done by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Through various initiatives, such as workshops in different regions, including Central Asia, the Task Force is playing an important role in helping States to build their counter-terrorism capacities. Another important development was the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, in November 2012. We are confident that the Centre will go a long way towards enhancing coordination efforts.

The Global Counter-Terrorism strategy underscores a holistic approach in the fight against terrorism. Our success is dependent upon the extent to which we are able to make further progress in a number of areas. The dangerous link between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be broken. The problem of terrorist safe havens, alongside the outstanding issue of financial and logistical resources made available to terrorists, has yet to be resolved. Those are real problems that require real solutions. Moreover, we believe that conflict prevention and resolution are essential facets of the counter-terrorism effort. The United Nations role is of particular importance in that regard.

In addition, ensuring job opportunities for youth and poverty eradication will help curtail the recruitment of new individuals to terrorist networks. In that connection, we would like to highlight the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in promoting development for all. It goes without saying that terrorism is a common enemy that does not discriminate against any particular religion, nationality or culture. Everyone is a target. We call for increased measures to strengthen interreligious and cultural dialogue and understanding.

In conclusion, I would like to underscore Afghanistan's long-standing commitment to the fight against international terrorism. As a prime victim of the threat, we are well aware of its devastating effects on societies, yet we are also well aware of the progress that can be made in that regard through joint and concerted efforts. We greatly value the support we have received from our international partners over the past 11 years in our struggle against the global threat, and look forward to our continuing partnership with the international community on the way forward.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Arias (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Security Council for this opportunity to participate in today's open debate on a subject that is very important to the international community and which Spain considers to be an undeniable priority. I thank Pakistan for organizing this debate and I wish it luck and success in its presidency of the Council during this difficult month of January.

Terrorism is a crime that must be prosecuted solely with the instruments that are granted by the rule of law. Criminal justice must act in its fullest capacity, always guaranteeing due process. Spain is fully convinced that the fight against terrorism and the strict respect for human rights not only are compatible but also reinforce and complement each other. Terrorism is a threat to all that must be combated with efficacy. To that end, we need a strategy that guides the actions necessary at the international, regional and national levels.

In 2006, the General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus in resolution 60/288. National and regional strategies are also necessary to help avoid duplicating efforts and eliminate existing dangerous gaps. In that regard, I believe that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force must intensify its work in order to facilitate a better integration and coordination of national and international actions.

Terrorism must be condemned firmly and emphatically, and we must accept no justification for it. That is compatible with undertaking a serious analysis of the origins of violent radicalization and the best way to combat it. Combating terrorism requires the indispensable cooperation of the police and the courts. However, we must keep in mind that the current economic and social situation in different parts of the world creates very fertile ground for the development of violent radicalization. We must therefore develop new strategies that conform to a concept in which security and development are closely connected.

The events in Mali are a good example of what happens when citizens do not have recourse to a reliable security and development framework, because terrorist groups can then take power, posing a serious threat to the country in question and the international community with their mafioso behaviour. For that reason, and in the light of that preventive concept, it is very important that the greatest possible effort be made at the international level to use instruments, such as the United Nations Development Programme, that can provide better technical assistance on the ground.

Prevention is a very broad-based concept that includes the development of intercultural dialogue and brings civilizations closer together as a means of combating fanaticism. It is important, therefore, to highlight the value of the Alliance of Civilizations, which in a short time has become a multidimensional instrument of preventive diplomacy, encompassing the political, social, economic, religious and legal spheres, and, in addition, attaches great importance to the media and other forms of communication.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must also develop a responsible interaction between local communities and police forces. It must also give special attention to social integration at the local level, to dialogue with representatives of religious minorities, and to the responsible education of religious leaders. In the light of the foregoing, Spain is participating in efforts to distribute educational material in schools that will help develop pluralism, coexistence, tolerance and respect towards others. In that area, organizations such as UNESCO can make a major contribution.

One essential area is the Internet. Messages must be spread throughout the Internet that discredit terrorism, stripping it of the supposedly glorious and generous image presented in many forums and highlighting its religious doctrinal contradictions. With that in mind, it is important to give a special role to prestigious personalities, the victims of terrorism and certain religious leaders. To that end, it is necessary to work with the private sector in research to develop databases, encourage the exchange of information, and appropriately manage borders and procedures in airports and train stations. The relationship with the private sector is also of utmost importance in

guaranteeing the protection of tourism, of certain infrastructure and mass events.

The victims of terrorism must play a central role in national, regional and international strategies because their stories carry moral weight and they can be an effective instrument against terrorism through their testimony and experience. A policy of acknowledgement, support and assistance to victims will be a strong factor in discrediting terrorism even further.

Spain thanks the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for its work in collecting and issuing recommendations and best practices of States in connection with victims. That work goes hand in hand with that of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with regard to victims and the response of criminal justice to their needs. Despite the suffering caused by terrorism in the past few years, it is regrettable that there is still no binding international standard of a universal nature aimed at protecting the rights of victims. Spain considers it to be of utmost importance that we promote the drafting of an international statute for the victims of terrorism that would embody their rights.

I wish to restate Spain's firm and active support for the Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism, which is a part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, with a view to carrying out the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Plan of Action on Victims of Terrorism that was approved by the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) at the High-level Conference on Victims of Terrorism held in Madrid in July 2012 is a good reference point because it collects proposals addressed to the members of the GCTF and to any State that wishes to participate.

In conclusion, Spain takes this opportunity to appeal for consensus in the negotiation of an international convention against terrorism, which would be an essential building block in fighting the scourge.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Botswana.

Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana): Mr. President, Botswana is pleased to see you personally presiding over the business of the Council today. I wish to express my delegation's appreciation to your country for including this item on the agenda of the Council, and my delegation is pleased to share its views on it. Let me also express my condolences to you and your country, Sir, for the loss of lives as a result of the terrorist attacks that took place in your country on Friday.

My delegation also aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Despite the challenge of resource limitations, Botswana remains committed to the full and effective implementation of its international obligations in the fight against terrorism. Botswana joins the international community in condemning acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations wherever, however and whenever they occur. There can never be any justification for the motive behind such dastardly acts.

Terrorism remains a serious threat to national, regional and international peace and security. Acts of terrorism have shown that this phenomenon knows no boundaries and that its impact is indiscriminate and deeply wounds the soul of every society. The fact that it is a violent form of transnational crime that thrives on the proceeds of crimes ranging from illegal trade to money-laundering requires the common resolve of the international community to offer an effective global response and action.

My delegation strongly believes that the international community should move a step further in its concerted efforts against acts of terrorism and consolidate all 13 existing multilateral conventions and protocols in order to intensify and harmonize action against this scourge. That is the united action that is needed to send the strong message to perpetrators of violence and potential terrorists that the international community is unrelenting in its commitment to fulfilling its obligation to stop countless numbers of innocent lives from being claimed by terrorist activities.

Above all, we need to strengthen the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in order to stop arbitrary killings, the destruction of property and livelihoods, and the spread of terrorism. My delegation therefore agrees that the international community should scale up its cooperation and assistance in support of counter-terrorism activities, programmes, institutions and training, which are usually lacking in developing countries.

Botswana believes that the development of strong institutions of governance, the promotion of the rule of law, and the promotion and protection of human rights serve as a useful foundation for countering terrorism. The sharing of knowledge, experience and

best practices, including through the establishment of unified customs systems and border control facilities, could facilitate a seamless flow of information among neighbouring countries. That is also critical for addressing the problem of the illicit trafficking of drugs, small arms and light weapons, the proceeds of which cannot be separated from the financing of terrorism and terrorist activities.

At the national level, Botswana has established a national counter-terrorism committee, with the mandate of ensuring the implementation of counter-terrorism strategies. There has been steady progress in the areas of legislative reforms and strengthening the capability of the security apparatus to combat terrorism. That includes the drafting of comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation to deal with the threat of terrorism and the creation of new institutions, such as the Directorate on Intelligence and Security, the Financial Intelligence Agency and the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority.

On the multilateral front, Botswana continues to intensify its cooperation in the fight against terrorism at the subregional, regional and international levels. Botswana's participation in bodies such as the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Organization, the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is an additional effort to enhance the implementation capacity of our national counter-terrorism strategy.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Guerber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the Government of Pakistan for organizing today's open debate on a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism and for the related concept paper (S/2013/3, annex). I take this opportunity to express Switzerland's sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to Pakistan for the losses it suffered as a result of the horrific terrorist attacks that took place in Quetta and the Swat Valley on Thursday.

Switzerland condemns terrorism in all its forms and rejects any association of terrorist acts with a particular race, ethnicity, civilization, nationality or religion. The manifestations of terrorism are manifold. Terrorists arbitrarily kill or injure people and kidnap targeted individuals for ransom. They destroy property and hurt our economies. They seek to undermine the security of aircraft, ships and nuclear facilities. The preparations for terrorist acts, their financing and the recruitment of their perpetrators take place both in the real world and in cyberspace.

Switzerland fully subscribes to a comprehensive approach when dealing with the various aspects of terrorism. At the multilateral level, this approach is best reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is the foundation of the United Nations counter-terrorism programme. The Strategy integrates four different pillars into one common vision: the use of non-military tools, capacity-building, law enforcement cooperation and addressing the underlying societal and political conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism. The Strategy also asserts that counter-terrorism efforts must respect human rights, due process and the rule of law. Success in the fight against terrorism depends on the equal implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy.

At the United Nations level, such a balanced approach should be systematically reflected in the resolutions adopted by its organs, in the composition of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and in the subjects dealt with by its various working groups. The appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator remains a priority for Switzerland.

A holistic approach to counter-terrorism is also needed at the domestic level. In Switzerland, the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chairs the Interdepartmental Group on Counter-Terrorism, in which over 30 agencies from across the Swiss federal administration take part. Since its adoption in 2006, Switzerland has actively supported the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Together with other countries, and in close cooperation with the United Nations, in 2007 we launched the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. The Process seeks better coordination of the national, regional and global counter-terrorism efforts towards the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy.

Since the establishment of the Strategy, several meetings have taken place at the global and regional levels. Together with the CTITF, we are preparing another global counter-terrorism coordinators meeting, to be held in Geneva in June. By specifically focusing on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and on regional cooperation, we seek to better understand

the complex reasons that make people from different regions of the world become terrorists in order to find appropriate regional solutions to destroy the appeal of terrorism at the local level.

For Switzerland, a global approach also means a close and mutually beneficial relationship among States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, such as the new Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

However, we cannot content ourselves with international efforts. With the threat of terrorism becoming more widespread and networked, we must better integrate civil society in our efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. Non-governmental organizations, academia, independent research centres, religious organizations and other social networks play an essential role in advancing global counter-terrorism objectives, even without openly declaring it. That role can also be assumed in terrorist kidnappings because, in our view, paying a ransom is not an option. Civil society actors have a constructive role to play in preventing and countering kidnappings for ransom in order to rescue hostages and to ensure their safe and sound release. We are absolutely convinced that States will be able to prevent terrorism only with the assistance of societies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mr. Pedersen (Norway): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Norway. I will make six brief points.

First, no country is immune to terrorism. Norway experienced it in July 2011. Preventing terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, including political, economic, legal and military means. It is also necessary to take a long-term perspective, while still addressing urgent issues without delay. That is the essence of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as pointed out in the background document for today's meeting (see S/2013/3, annex).

Secondly, respect for human rights and the rule of law is the starting point for all our efforts against terrorism, at both the domestic and the international levels. In that respect, the strengthening of corre[illegible]onal capacities, such as the judiciary, police and border control, remains important to be able to combat transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Thirdly, we are pleased to note that the mandate of the Ombudsperson for the Al-Qaida sanctions system was extended for 30 months in resolution 2083 (2012). We commend Judge Prost for her impressive work, and encourage all Member States to give their full support to her Office and to provide her with all relevant information.

Fourthly, it is the responsibility of Member States to take all necessary steps to counter terrorism. The Nordic countries have provided voluntary contributions through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities to assist Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts and in implementing the Strategy. The United Nations plays a vital coordinating role. Important steps have been taken by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in particular, but there is a continued need to increase efficiency and avoid overlap or gaps. It is also important to improve coordination with initiatives, such as the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism. Therefore, we welcome the proposal to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

Fifthly, a key element in the Strategy is to prevent the financing of terrorism. We support the close and constructive cooperation that has been developed between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Financial Action Task Force. The Task Force has developed practical recommendations to prevent the financing of terrorism, and we urge all Member States to implement them.

The recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force are also useful in the fight against international organized crime, which again plays a role in funding terrorism. Furthermore, United Nations organizations must strengthen their financial and other control mechanisms, especially in complex emergencies, in accordance with international standards in order to prevent terrorist financing or other illegal practices.

My sixth and final point is that, in certain situations, counter-terrorism measures and strategies constrain humanitarian action and can even criminalize humanitarian activities. As set out in the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2010/579) and reiterated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,

the restrictions imposed by State and non-State actors on personnel and humanitarian supplies are indeed a major concern. Such restrictions include those imposed by donor Governments in relation to certain armed actors in armed conflict. We need to ensure clarity on the part of States regarding the scope and applicability of counter-terrorism laws and measures so that they do not undermine humanitarian commitments and in order to fully ensure complete and unimpeded humanitarian access.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Khiari (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would first of all like to say how happy my delegation is to see you, Sir, assume the presidency of the Council. We congratulate you and thank you for having chosen the very important topic of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism.

My delegation welcomes the convening of this open debate, which provides my country the opportunity to reiterate its firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to reaffirm its full support for the efforts of the international community in our fight against the threats of terrorism and its causes.

The comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism is of particular importance because the terrorist threat remains very real, given the tensions and risks that characterize the international and regional geopolitical context and the presence of terrorist groups and criminal networks, whose activities gravely threaten international peace and security.

The situation in the African Sahel is a cause of great concern to the region and the international community. The serious and many problems facing the countries of that region, exacerbated by arms and drug trafficking and the emergence of new terrorist groups, are a threat to international peace and security. It requires urgently establishing a comprehensive, concerted and holistic approach that tackles the root causes of the lack of stability, including in the African Sahel region.

Tunisia, for its part, has always shown a strong commitment at the national, regional and international levels to tackling terrorist threats. That commitment can be seen nationally through the adoption of a multidimensional national strategy to deal with the causes that promote the spread of terrorism. The strategy takes into account the right of all individuals to enjoy the benefits of dignity, justice and prosperity.

At the regional level, Tunisia has acceded to almost all initiatives and actions on the issue, in particular by ratifying all regional counter-terrorism agreements.

Deeply convinced that counter-terrorism exceeds the individual capacities of a State or any international organization, my country has also acceded to most international treaties and agreements to combat terrorism and continues to strive to meet its obligations under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Post-revolution Tunisia places a high priority on protecting human rights in the context of counter-terrorism measures and is committed to ensuring that all of our counter-terrorism measures are in conformity with our obligations regarding human rights law and humanitarian law.

Just as terrorism has neither race, religion or nationality, it is also multiform and ever-changing in its manifestations, methods and means. Moreover, today terrorism is also electronic. It leans increasingly on new communication and information technologies and evolves in tandem with cybercrime.

We believe that purely security-oriented and sometimes unilateral measures have shown their limitations. The worldwide persistence of political injustice, the continued non-resolution of certain conflicts, notably that in Palestine, increasing economic disparities, exclusionary policies and the defamation of religions are all factors that fuel hatred and the rejection of the other, to feed extremism and to encourage the indoctrination and recruitment of terrorists.

On this subject, Tunisia wishes to reiterate its proposal for a United Nations summit to be convened in the near future renew the contract of peace among members of the human family and to solidify common plans to fight all attempts to turn civilizations against one another.

Today, the global challenge of the growing terrorist threat can be addressed only by strengthening the United Nations anti-terrorist architecture and by a balanced and comprehensive implementation of all the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that context, Tunisia stresses the importance of strengthening the capacities of Member States and their security institutions to effectively fight terrorism, money-laundering, the illicit movement of

funds and arms proliferation, as well as their ability to contend with terrorists' use of new communication and information technologies.

A global response to the challenge of terrorism requires that we mobilize genuine international solidarity, based on effective regional and international cooperation and on unity among all international actors — Governments, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the media — so as to avoid a diffusion of our efforts and to increase our ability to prevent and fight terrorism and reduce its impact.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I want to thank Pakistan for its initiative in convening today's meeting and its Minister for Foreign Affairs for presiding over it earlier today. We also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive statement. We express our solidarity with Pakistan and our deep sadness about the recent events there.

Terrorism is a threat to international peace and security. That is why the international community must intensify its efforts to fight it in a coordinated and effective way. As we have made clear, Colombia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterates that no motives or circumstances can justify it.

The international community is endowed with an ample legal framework in the matter, including 14 international treaties and four additional protocols, as well as resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. We note the progress made towards the universalization of that framework in recent years, and we call on Member States to remain vigilant in their effective implementation of those measures.

The ongoing efforts in the fight against terrorism have highlighted the need for a more coordinated and creative approach. Achieving that goal will require us to address the complexities of terrorism through international cooperation and coordination. To address such a global phenomenon, the United Nations, especially the General Assembly as its principal organ, will have to act as a central axis of policy cooperation, even as the Security Council, in the framework of its mandate, must adopt measures to complement and supplement international counter-terrorism activities through its resolutions and subsidiary organs. My country supports all efforts to avoid duplication of effort and to promote coherency and coordination among the Organization's various entities involved in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is the instrument that best reflects the consensus of the international community, and its four pillars must therefore continue to guide a balanced response to terrorism. Building the capacities of States is a fundamental aspect of global counter-terrorism activities and should serve to support the development of internal normative frameworks. Counter-terrorism measures must be in full accordance with the rule of law, due process and human rights. We must continue to provide technical assistance to States to facilitate national capacity-building so that they can implement their international obligations.

Colombia reiterates the importance, as a central aspect of the fight against terrorism, of adopting measures to protect the rights of victims and of compensating them for the harm they have suffered. We must continue to work to ensure that victims are heard and that States have appropriate mechanisms for helping them, healing them and protecting their rights.

Fighting terrorism requires us to attack its financing sources. We believe that this should be one of the highest international priorities in the struggle against terrorism. Most sources of terrorist financing can be traced to organized crime. In order to prevent terrorist networks from tapping into the financial and logistical resources that fundamental their activities, we must develop comprehensive measures incorporating elements of judicial instruments addressing transnational organized crime.

Terrorist financing derived from crime opens new opportunities for States to engage in effective international cooperation in exchanging information and intelligence. That is why we continue to work with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to which we have made consistent financial contributions. Late this month, our country will host an international conference to develop national strategies for the fight against terrorism, the purpose of which is to strengthen countries' national capacities and support them in developing strategies.

No country is immune to terrorism, which is why the international community must remain united in

the project to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in a comprehensive way. Colombia will continue to work bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally to achieve tangible results in the fight against terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka): I thank Pakistan for facilitating this important debate at a time when terrorism is taking a terrible toll on the nations of the world. I am particularly conscious of the terrorist violence in our own region, and join other speakers in condemning the recent violence that caused widespread death and destruction in Pakistan.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We hope that this meeting will have a lasting impact on strengthening United Nations counter-terrorism initiatives and further invigorate the Security Council's commitment to strengthening international cooperation in combating terrorism.

Given the ramifications of modern terrorism, the United Nations must remain the most appropriate entity to spearhead the global campaign against terrorism, which targets mostly civilians, with women and children being the main victims. The world has watched helplessly, far too frequently, images of the shredded bodies of innocents scattered around pockmarked buildings. The United Nations must grapple firmly with this hydra-headed evil and develop appropriate multifaceted and lasting strategies. Our goal must be to end or dramatically lessen the misery and human suffering wrought by this scourge. We must not let our efforts be diluted by exhaustion as we seek to create a safer world for all. We wholeheartedly support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Sri Lanka ended a terrorist conflict three and a half years ago. We determined early on that no terrorist group could survive for long without critical support from international linkages and networks. We were assisted substantively through complex, multifaceted and comprehensive coordination with the international community, and we will remain grateful to all our friends who came to our assistance. While our security forces confronted the terrorists militarily, after many efforts to engage them in negotiations, a carefully developed international strategy, which included financial measures that denied access to funds collected overseas; law-enforcement coordination, which included the seizure and destruction of illegally acquired weapons; and robust prosecutions and intelligence-sharing, which assisted in securing the arrest and punishment of fundraisers and arms procurers, contributed to achieving our goal. Our efforts continue as the evil minds of terrorist sympathizers devise new strategies to pursue their goals.

The Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, other agencies of the United Nations and the Member States themselves, through the adoption of 13 anti-terrorism conventions and other action plans, have made it abundantly clear that terrorism, the terrorizing of civilians for political gain, is totally abhorrent to the international community. Sri Lanka continues to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on terrorism, which seeks to conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism. We have also taken the view that unless the underlying conditions conducive to terrorism are addressed, the problem will persist. We are glad that the Security Council has emphasized the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to counter the forces that fuel extremism.

Sri Lanka also continues to improve its own capacity to fight terrorism by providing training for law-enforcement and judicial officers in the areas of intelligence- and information-sharing, investigation skills, the gathering and analysing of financial intelligence, and so on. We collaborated with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in the hosting of a regional workshop for police officers, prosecutors and counter-terrorism focal points in South Asia, held in Colombo in 2010. The Galle dialogue, hosted by Sri Lanka, focuses increasingly on the threat of piracy.

It is well established that international linkages and international networks help terrorists and their front organizations to profit from human and arms trafficking — a widespread phenomenon at present — money-laundering, credit-card fraud, weapons smuggling and cybercrime. Having been a victim of terrorism for almost three decades, Sri Lanka learned early on the value of confronting all those aspects in order to address our terrorist problem. In that undertaking, we were particularly assisted by our international partners. Sri Lanka works closely with the countries of the region, in particular Australia, in addressing the problem of human smuggling.

Sri Lanka wishes to underline that the root causes of terrorism are complex and that terrorism cannot be associated with any ethnicity or religion. Countering terrorism should not be viewed primarily in a military context. Sri Lanka's decision to engage the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam terrorists militarily in 2006 followed their persistent refusal to engage in peace negotiations and their ready embrace of unmitigated violence targeting civilians.

Since the end of the terrorist conflict in Sri Lanka, the country has prioritized rehabilitation, reconstruction, reintegration and reconciliation to achieve a sustainable peace. Through vast development efforts, Sri Lanka has adopted measures encompassing the political, economic and social spheres to ensure that terrorism will never again find a foothold in our land. Democratic processes have been re-established, and local government elections have been held in former conflict-affected areas after a lapse of three decades. Sri Lanka embarked upon a domestic process — the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission process — to ensure that there will be no recurrence of internal conflict and to identify any infractions of the law committed during the military operations.

The reconciliation process, which is very complex, has been approached from different angles. The Government has adopted an extremely conciliatory attitude towards former combatants. Consistent with our culture, forgiveness was the theme. More than 11,000 former combatants, including over 560 child soldiers, have been rehabilitated and allowed to return to their homes and communities. That was less than three years since the end of the conflict. The Tamil community, scattered around the world, is an important factor in the reconciliation and reconstruction effort. Any concerns on the part of the minorities will be a priority as Sri Lanka seeks reconciliation. A political process, through a parliamentary select committee involving the elected representatives of political parties, has also been initiated.

It is our hope that the international community will maintain vigilance and not create opportunities, even inadvertently, for terrorists and their sympathizers to achieve through international mechanisms what they were unable to achieve through bullets, suicide bombs and shattered lives. The encouragement of one group, in whatever form, will send a clear message to the others to adjust their tactics.

It is important that we soon conclude our negotiations on the comprehensive convention on terrorism. We note the discussions that have been taking place since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/210, of 1996, and hope that these will be brought to a successful conclusion urgently.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba endorses the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba reaffirms its strongest opposition to all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, whatever the motives, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

Cuba likewise condemns any action aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or covering up any act, method or practice of terrorism. Our country has an impeccable record of fighting terrorism and has never allowed, nor will it ever allow, Cuban territory to be used to carry out, mastermind or finance terrorist acts against any country.

Cuba has adopted and implemented legislative, administrative and institutional measures aimed at preventing and suppressing all terrorist acts and activities and others directly or indirectly connected with them, including those related to the financing of terrorism, border protection and surveillance, arms trafficking, judicial cooperation, and adherence to international legal instruments on the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Cuba has effective legislation against acts of terrorism — Law 93, adopted by the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic — which defines all acts of international terrorism as serious crimes and establishes very heavy penalties in accordance with international obligations.

Cuba is a State party to 14 of the existing international conventions on terrorism and strictly complies with its obligations under Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), and other related resolutions.

Cuba is convinced that the only effective way to prevent and combat terrorism is through bilateral and multilateral cooperation among all States on the basis

of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and the sovereign equality of States. We also believe that the international community should not accept that, under the pretext of the so-called fight against terrorism, certain States commit acts of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other States; commit or allow flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; or carry out unilateral acts that are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Cuba has been the victim of terrorism. The Cuban people have lost 3,478 sons and daughters as a result of terrorist actions committed against our homeland for half a century. Another 2,099 have been disabled for life for the same reason. Most of these actions have been organized, financed and carried out from United States territory.

The arbitrary and unjustifiable inclusion of Cuba in an annual list of States that allegedly sponsor international terrorism, drawn up by the United States Department of State on groundless pretexts and without the slightest evidence of the participation or involvement of our country in any terrorist act, is a spurious and politically motivated exercise. Cuba rejects as illegitimate the mechanism whereby the United States Government arrogates to itself the right to certify the conduct of other nations in relation to terrorism and to issue discriminatory and selective lists for political purposes, while adopting a double standard by failing to prosecute self-confessed perpetrators of horrendous terrorist acts against Cuba and other countries in our hemisphere and allowing them to remain free. The United States Government has also spurned the cooperation offered by Cuba and failed to respond to reiterated Cuban proposals to create a bilateral cooperation programme to combat terrorism.

Cuba reiterates its denunciation of the most notorious terrorist of the Western Hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, who moves freely about the United States under the protection of its authorities. Nothing justifies the failure of the United States Government to meet its international obligations to prosecute or extradite that terrorist for his crimes. In documents declassified by that Government's Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation, he has been identified as the mastermind of the mid-air explosion of a Cubana de Aviación airliner on 6 October 1976.

Paradoxically, the United States Government maintains five innocent Cuban fighters against terrorism, who have been arbitrarily and unfairly deprived of their freedom simply for seeking, with extraordinary altruism and courage, to obtain information on terrorist groups based in Miami in order to prevent violent acts and save the lives of Cuban and United States citizens alike. Therefore, Cuba demands the immediate release of Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Fernando González Llort, René González Sehwerert and Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez.

The General Assembly is mandated to address and advance the measures necessary to eliminate international terrorism and develop effective international cooperation to combat that phenomenon. The General Assembly provides the proper framework for achieving those objectives. Cuba reaffirms the importance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 60/288, as a primary instrument for guiding States' efforts in the global fight against terrorism.

Cuba endorses the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that defines terrorism in a clear and comprehensive manner, including the activities of persons in charge of a State's armed forces and other acts not regulated by international humanitarian law, and making a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate fight of peoples for their independence and in defence of their right to self-determination. Such a convention should eliminate the deficiencies and omissions of the existing legal framework.

At the same time, Cuba confirms its conviction that terrorism cannot be eradicated through war, selectivity, impunity and double standards, and that there can be no effective cooperation if only some terrorist acts are condemned while others are ignored, tolerated or justified, or if this issue is simply manipulated for narrow political benefit.

In conclusion, I reiterate the willingness of the Cuban Government to cooperate with any State in preventing and combating international terrorism on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and the principles and rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I take the floor on behalf of the 15 States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Allow me to begin by conveying my country's congratulations to Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and her delegation on Pakistan's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I thank her most sincerely appreciation for her choice of theme for today's debate, which unfortunately spares no region of the world.

We honour the memory of the victims of the bloody terrorist attacks in the Pakistan province of Balochistan and in the Swat Valley, which recently led to the deaths of at least 100 people in the region.

The scourge of terrorism is present on the African continent, with the Al-Shabaab network in East Africa, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and a collection of other terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb that are most active in West Africa, the Sahel and beyond, as stressed during the ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Sahel, organized by the Moroccan presidency of the Security Council on 10 December 2012 (see S/PV.6882).

It is clear that identifying a global approach to fighting terrorism is the foremost concern of the States members of ECOWAS. Indeed, since the beginning of the crisis in Mali about a year ago, ECOWAS — through President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Acting Chair of the Conference of Heads of States and Government of ECOWAS — has called the attention of the international community to the threat to regional and international peace and security posed by the presence of terrorist groups in Mali.

In that regard, we welcome the joint vision and action shared by the African Union, ECOWAS and the Security Council with regard to Mali, leading to the adoption of resolution 2085 (2012), authorizing the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). Far more than in the past, we are all seeing on the ground the manifest effort of terrorists to make Mali a safe haven for terrorist groups and organized crime by using that country and its vast territory to recruit and train terrorists, launch operations across the world and then withdraw in total impunity. The most recent terrorist offensive launched last week in southern Mali confirmed the concerns that have led the African Union and ECOWAS to stress continuously to the Security Council the urgent need to adopt a resolution authorizing the deployment of an international force to Mali.

Recent events clearly testify to the relevance of resolution 2085 (2012), adopted by the Security Council on 20 December 2012. The attacks carried out by terrorist groups in southern Mali clearly pose a direct, genuine and immediate threat to regional and international peace and security. First and foremost, they represent an imminent danger to the lives of civilians and the territorial integrity of Mali.

In view of the situation on the ground, ECOWAS — in its communiqué of 11 January signed by President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire as Acting Chairman of the Conference of the Heads of States and Governments of ECOWAS — thanked the members of the Security Council and the French Government for their swift response aimed at stabilizing the military situation in Mali and maintaining the territorial integrity of that State Member of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff are meeting today and tomorrow in Bamako with a view to finalizing an evaluation of the situation and developing a plan of operations for the effective deployment of AFISMA with troops from Nigeria, Senegal, the Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo. In the light of ongoing events in Mali, a summit meeting of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government is scheduled to take place in Abidjan on 19 January.

ECOWAS considers France's intervention in Mali to be absolutely legitimate as, on the one hand, it responds to the explicit request for assistance expressed by the legitimate Malian authorities and, on the other, it is aligned with resolution 2085 (2012) of the Council. We offer our sincere thanks to France for its leadership in managing the Malian crisis, as well as to the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, Belgium and Denmark for their multifaceted support to the operations under way in Mali.

ECOWAS condemns terrorism in all forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motivation, and believes that nothing can justify an act of terrorism. ECOWAS backs the joint activities of the international community in that context and fully supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September 2006. Moreover, ECOWAS urges its member States to adopt the Strategy's Plan of Action based on the four pillars of addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; preventing and

combating terrorism; building States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system in that regard; and ensuring respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism.

Many members of ECOWAS have established legal frameworks to combat terrorism, including the adoption by some States of specific legislation on terrorism, as recommended by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Indeed, many international tools adopted in the fight against terrorism have also been ratified by ECOWAS member States in the context of their efforts to adopt specific measures to prevent, identify and combat threats of terrorism. Such instruments include the 1992 ECOWAS Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters; the 1994 ECOWAS Convention on Extradition; the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, established 1999; the 2002 regulation of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) on the freezing of assets and other financial resources under the framework to combat the funding of terrorism; the 2006 ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons; the 2007 directive on combating the financing of terrorism by member States of the WAEMU; and the 2009 Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa.

As has been reiterated many times, no State can combat terrorism alone. That is why our approach must be global. In particular, strengthened coordinated action is necessary nationally, regionally and internationally. In that respect, the support of the international community is crucial, particularly through an effective capacity-building programme to assist our States in their resolve to implement the necessary inclusive and integrated regional and global strategy to effectively respond to the threat of terrorism.

In conclusion, ECOWAS cherishes the hope that this important debate on terrorism will contribute to further galvanizing the international community around the need for the close and genuine cooperation of all towards putting a definitive end to a scourge that affects all States and undermines the foundations for development necessary to ensure the peace, security and stability of our States.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on Pakistan's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I am confident that your experience and wisdom will enable the Council to achieve appropriate outcomes on the sensitive issues under consideration. Moreover, I express my deep gratitude to you for convening this open debate on counter-terrorism, and particularly thank Her Excellency Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, for attending and presiding over our meeting today. In addition, we underscore our alignment with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

There is clearly no need for us to reiterate the well-known fact that terrorism is a global phenomenon, unassociated with a specific religion or race. Although it threatens no specific country or region, it represents a threat to the entire world; the international community must therefore combat it with determined action and cooperation aimed at achieving the desired results.

My country remains a leader in the fight against terrorism. At the international level, the Kingdom continually reiterates its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its source or objectives. Since 1963, my country has acceded to 14 regional and international agreements and conventions against terrorism and its funding. Moreover, the Kingdom has implemented all resolutions of the Security Council to counter terrorism and its funding, including through the freezing of assets, travel bans and arms embargos against all persons and entities listed on the Security Council sanctions committees consolidated list, and through its close cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the fight against terrorism. Those include, in particular, United Nations entities and their subsidiary bodies, such as the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

I also recall the High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism, with a Specific Focus on Strengthening the Legal Framework, which was held at the start of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on 28 September 2012. In that regard, I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Security

Council, especially its Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), to control and prevent the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors, whether individuals or organizations, who attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use those weapons. In that context, last year the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed an $500,000 in support of the work of that Committee. We reiterate the importance of such resolutions in limiting terrorist organizations' access to weapons of mass destruction and in intensifying the policing of providers of nuclear services in order to ensure that they are not providing illegitimate entities with nuclear materials or technology.

As always, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has continued to undertake effective leadership initiatives in support of international cooperation in combating terrorism, in the form of the International Conference on Counter-Terrorism, held in Riyadh in 2005 by invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. An idea emerged at the Conference that is today a reality, namely, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which is now effectively and actively shouldering its responsibilities in strengthening international cooperation in combating terrorism. Saudi Arabia's support for the Centre demonstrates our commitment to collective action and the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, we call on all members of the international community to cooperate with the Centre in providing it the benefit of their expertise, which will in turn enable the Centre to achieve the goals for which it was established. In that respect, I am pleased to announce that my country is cooperating with the United Nations on convening meeting, to be held in mid-February, on cooperation between internationals centres to fight terrorism in Riyadh.

At the national level, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has instituted several important measures and security safeguards aimed at combating and limiting terrorism. Those include establishing new security departments specialized in counter-terrorism activities; enacting and amending many laws, rules and regulations related to combating terrorism; and strengthening rules and restrictions regulating the weapons, munitions, equipment and/or spare parts industry and the import, sale, possession and/or trade in such weapons, so as to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorists. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also tightened border controls in order to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and arms smuggling.

However, my country's efforts to combat terrorism are not limited to security measures. Saudi Arabia has been keen to address the ideological, economic and social aspects of terrorism, as well as to compensate the victims of terrorist crimes and provide them with the necessary psychological treatment. In that regard, we have established the Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef Rehabilitation Centre, which provides counselling and guidance to repentant terrorists, in order to reintegrate them into the societies of their homelands as active citizens. The Centre has now become a model for the eradication of the roots of terrorism and its ideologies.

I would like to recall the outcome of the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (General Assembly resolution 66/282). While I reiterate my country's support for, and commitment to, all the elements and pillars of the Strategy, I should like point out that most international efforts have focused on the Strategy's second and third pillars, concerning ways to confront and combat terrorism, build countries' capacity and develop the role of the United Nations.

We are fully aware of the sensitivity of discussing the first pillar of the Strategy, which refers to the factors that lead to the spread of terrorism. But in order to be fair and honest with ourselves, we must admit that it is important that we look into ways to eradicate the causes that lead to terrorism. Those include occupation, oppression, colonization, ethnic cleansing, and, finally, depriving people of their right to self-determination, achieving national independence and meeting people's aspirations to freedom and dignity. In particular, they include the aggressive Israeli practices perpetrated on a daily basis against the Palestinian people in the State of Palestine, which is still under occupation. It is important to note that the acts of resistance to such occupation cannot be classified as terrorism, because acts of legitimate resistance are no more than a form of self-defence against the systematic State terrorism manifested through occupation.

With regard to the fourth pillar, which addresses human rights, I would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Ben Emmerson, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

particularly for his report to the Human Rights Council on framework principles for securing the human rights of victims of terrorism (A/HRC/20/14). We emphasize that the fight against terrorism cannot retain its high morals unless they are fully aligned with respect for human rights. We also stress that combating terrorism can never justify harming innocent civilians or considering them mere collateral damage.

The President: I thank the representative of Saudi Arabia for his gracious remarks about me. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Council members, and other Members of the United Nations, who in their speeches today expressed their solidarity with Pakistan and conveyed their condolences to us in this moment of national tragedy, when we became victims of terrorism. We appreciate their vocal expressions of solidarity with Pakistan.

I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, who wishes to make an additional statement.

Mr. Şahinol (Turkey): The delegation of Turkey feels compelled to take the floor in response to the unfounded allegations made by another delegation against Turkey, which we categorically reject. Turkey will continue to stand by the Syrian people, who must be the masters of their own future.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who wishes to make an additional statement.

Mr. Mottaghi Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): I know it is late and that we have had a long day debating important issues related to our joint efforts to combat terrorism. However, I have asked for the floor to make a brief reply to two statements made during the course of this debate, by the representatives of the Israeli regime and Canada, in the course of which allegations were made against my country.

With reference to what was said by the representative of the Zionist regime, it is not really my delegation's intention to comment on such a rambling statement. That regime is responsible for so many terrorist acts and crimes that it would exceed the patience of this meeting for me even to enumerate them. State terrorism, the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, sabotage and cyber attacks are just a few examples of that.

With regard to what was said by the representative of Canada and the allegations raised against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, I should say that, while my delegation categorically rejects such baseless and malicious allegations against an important segment of the Iranian defence forces, it is a pity that Canada, based on its narrow-minded foreign policy, once again used this body to show its animosity towards Iran. Raising such unfounded and baseless allegations against my country is yet another politically motivated attempt to deviate from the main issues at hand that we should be discussing in this body.

Iran is a victim of terrorism and, surprisingly, some of the main terrorist elements whose hands covered in the blood of thousands of innocent Iranian have been provided asylum in Canada. Not only is Canada harbouring such elements, but it is also misusing international organs, including this body, to hide the true nature of its support for terrorism.

As today's debate in the Chamber has made clear, the fight against terrorism should be non-selective and universal in its scope and applicability.

The President: The Security Council has before it the text of a draft presidential statement on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank the Council members for their valuable contributions to the draft statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the draft presidential statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2013/1.

It is so decided.

I wish to thank all speakers for their statements. We have had a full and comprehensive debate that has lived up to the importance and scope of the topic. The condemnation of terrorism was unequivocal. The determination to address and combat it was strong and unambiguous. The importance of a comprehensive approach for more effective counter-terrorism efforts emerged as a prominent and recurring theme. I am sure that many of the important ideas and proposals that came up in the debate will receive due consideration in our work related to counter-terrorism.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6901

Security Council

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Official communiqué of the 6901st (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 16 January 2013, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 16 January 2013, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 6901st meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Buttenheim and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

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